Eye Conditions Snippet

**Condition Name:** Retinal Dystrophy

**Description:** A broad range of eye conditions are referred to as Retinal dystrophy. Often the cause of retinal dystrophy is genetic in origin.

**Effects on Vision:** Retinal dystrophy affects the rod and cone photoreceptors of the eyes and either do not work at birth or begin to worsen over time. Where the rods are affected vision is blurred around the edges and it is difficult to see in areas with decreased light. Where the cones are predominantly affected this will reduce central vision used for seeing fine detail and colours will not be so bright. The student may experience photophobia (discomfort in bright light). Some students with retinal dystrophy will be able to see very little. There are currently no treatments for Retinal Dystrophy although many things can be done to help students in other ways. Associated conditions include nystagmus.

**Educational implications:** Students may benefit from text enlargement and low vision aids. A functional vision assessment is recommended. Lighting will need to be considered as the student will not function well in very low light, they may also have an aversion to very bright light. The student may benefit from tinted glasses. Mobility may be affected due to the loss of visual acuity and the changing lighting conditions that may occur outdoors.