Eye Conditions Snippet

**Condition Name:** Retinitis Pigmentosa (RP)

**Description:** Retinitis Pigmentosa is the general name given to a wide range of genetic eye conditions predominantly characterized by problems with the rod photoreceptors, however in advanced cases the cones may also be compromised. Specific eye conditions associated with Retinitis Pigmentosa are Rod Cone Dystrophy, Leber’s Amaurosis and Usher’s Syndrome. RP usually progresses slowly. Cataracts and retinal swelling are also associated with retinitis pigmentosa.

**Effects on Vision:** Usually the rods are more affected than the cones meaning night vision and movement of things are compromised. There will also be a loss of peripheral vision. If the cones are affected then there will be central and colour vision loss.

**Educational implications:** Due to reduced vision in low light the student will benefit from good, even lighting. The student will also benefit from preferential seating and may exhibit eccentric viewing or frequent head turning to compensate for the reduced visual field. Mobility may also be affected due to reduced visual fields.