

Steve McCall

Dr Steve McCall retired in 2011 from his post as Senior Lecturer at the School of Education at the University of Birmingham. He is a qualified teacher of the visually impaired and started his career as in a special school for the visually impaired in Liverpool and later worked as an advisory teacher, supporting children with visual impairment in mainstream schools. In 1986 he joined the University where he was responsible for the teacher training programmes in teaching children and young people with visual impairment.

Steve became co director of VICTAR (the Visual Impairment Centre for Teaching and Research) in 2001. His publications include the books 'Visual Impairment – access to education for children and young people' and 'Learning Through Touch' and he has published widely on aspects of education and visual impairment in international research journals. In 2010 Steve was co author of a Literature Review for the Irish Government of best practice in the education of children with visual impairment and in 2011 was co author of a Literature Review into best practice in teaching of Braille for the Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB). He was World Vice President of ICEVI from 2002-2006.

His research interests include literacy for children who are blind and education for children with visual impairment in developing countries. Over the last 8 years he has conducted research in East and Central Africa for Sightsavers, a British based charity, and was joint editor of the British Journal of Visual Impairment.

On his retirement he was awarded an honorary senior lectureship at the University of Birmingham and is currently working as a consultant with both Sightsavers and the RNIB and is involved in establishing training programmes for teachers of the visually impaired in Morocco and Sierra Leone. He is a governor of Queen Alexandra Further Education College for the Visually Impaired in Birmingham.

Steve sees ICEVI as the key organisation for coordinating international cooperation and development among professionals and organisations involved in the education of children and young people with visual impairment. His aspiration for the future of the ICEVI is that it is seen by European government and non-governmental agencies as the lead body for promoting educational excellence for children with visual impairment across Europe and in the developing world.