

Multi Sensory Impairment

The Sensory Education and Support Service



Further information can be obtained from the
Team Manager

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A multi-sensory impairment is a vision and hearing impairment with additional difficulties, this impacts on a child's access to the environment and how to develop effective communication.

The team of specialist teachers who work for the Sensory Education and Support Service (SESS) include a Qualified Teacher of Multi-Sensory Impaired Children who works to meet the individual needs of children of all ages, from diagnosis to when they leave school; giving advice and support in the child's home, pre-school and in educational settings. The Qualified Teacher of Multi-Sensory Impaired Children and SESS Specialist Sensory Support Teaching Assistants work together with other teams who have been trained to support children with sensory impairments of all ages. We work to support children in a variety of settings and foster close links with education, health, support groups, voluntary agencies and other professionals.

What do we do?

We support pre-school children at home and in early years settings by monitoring and promoting the development of functional vision and hearing and tactile skills, advising on toys, equipment and strategies to use to stimulate the senses and encourage overall development and communication. We can also advise and support early years staff so that they can provide a stimulating environment and appropriate activities for the child.

We support primary and secondary school children by working closely with the school staff to ensure the greatest possible access to the curriculum for the multi-sensory impaired pupil. The frequency of the visits and degree of involvement will depend on their level of need.



Our continuing support includes:

- Assessments of functional vision and hearing and tactile skills, explaining results and implications to the school staff, parents and other professionals
- Advice on the listening and visual environment, hearing aid maintenance, eye conditions and visual/auditory aids
- Advice on modes of communication and ways to develop effective communication
- The provision of individual programmes and materials to develop communication and access to the environment and curriculum
- Contribution to Annual Reviews
- Attending reviews and all associated meetings
- Continued links with families to ensure they remain fully informed and to discuss the different challenges they may encounter as their children progress through their school life
- The provision of training for school staff so they understand the problems and how best to minimise them liaising with other Local Authority agencies and also with voluntary organisations