MSI Provision at Kingsland School

Multi-sensory impairment (MSI) – also known as Deafblindness or Dual Sensory Impairment - or is a complex condition that is caused by a combination of hearing and visual impairments, and can have varying levels of severity, ranging from mild to profound. MSI affects an individual's ability to communicate, access information and interact with their environment.

At Kingsland School we recognise that all of our learners are unique. We therefore assess our learners with MSI to establish the most appropriate curriculum pathway for them to access throughout their time at the school.

However, we recognise the impact that MSI has on an individual's ability to communicate, access information and interact with their environment. Therefore, these specific needs are addressed through a range of different interventions and activities, helping to remove the barriers that may be caused by having both a hearing and a vision impairment. These interventions are supported by a range of skilled staff, including class teachers, TAs, intervenors and specialist MSI teachers from both the school and the Local Authority, in order to best meet the sensory needs of learners with MSI.

Specialist MSI teachers work to establish a number of programmes to help to develop each child's individual skills. For example, positive looking programmes are written and used to develop the best use of a child's residual vision, whilst activities such as Intensive Interaction and specialist equipment such as resonance boards are used to develop a child's use of residual hearing.

Technology is used to assist learners with MSI where appropriate, for example, to develop a child's skills using the ipad in order to promote their independence and self-advocacy skills. Habilitation specialists from the Local Authority provide advice on orientation and mobility skills, encouraging children to develop their independence skills and to navigate their environment as safely and independently as possible.

MSI learners with more complex needs are encouraged to develop their awareness of themselves and the use of other senses through interventions such as Sensology, Handle and Tac Pac. This helps them to establish their sense of self and to help develop their body awareness, as well as where their body is in the space around them. Approaches to communication for these children are addressed through a total communication approach, with the use of Objects of Reference, smell and sound cues, communication aid switches and touch cues to help support an individual's understanding, where necessary.