

Multi- Sensory Impairment

Multi-sensory impairment (sometimes called dual sensory impairment or deafblindness) is a combination of impairments to vision and hearing that can effect an individual's communication, access to information and mobility. The advisory teacher for multi-sensory impairment works closely with the visual impairment team and hearing impairment team to support children and young people (0-25) with multi-sensory impairment.

We provide support and advice to parents and carers at the child's home and also to teachers and other professionals within the school setting.

When a child is referred to our team they are allocated to our Advisory Teacher for Multi-Sensory impairment (MSI) who will be there to support the child, parents/ carers and all professionals involved through the educational process. The advisory teacher focuses on all aspects of the child's development and may act as a co-ordinator for all those involved. The advisory teacher will liaise with both the visual impairment team and hearing impairment team and will involve specialists from these teams when necessary.

Referral criteria

- The child must have a medical diagnosis of a dual sensory impairment.
- Medical information must be provided, clearly indicating the child's level of impairment in both vision and hearing
- Parents must have given permission for the referral to be made
- The child or young person must be resident in Barnet

We operate an open referral policy, and weekly meetings are held to discuss any new referrals.

Once a referral is accepted:

- The referrer and parents will be contacted within two weeks
- The advisory teacher for MSI will be allocated to carry out an initial assessment within four weeks of the initial contact
- A report will be sent to the referrer and parents within four weeks of the assessment, with a clear indication of the future level of support to be provided by the MSI/VI/HI service

Levels of support offered to individual children and young people will be guided by the nature, severity and complexity of their needs, according to the National Sensory Impairment Partnership (NatSIP) criteria <https://www.natsip.org.uk/>