

# Ordinarily Available Guidance

## SECONDARY

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## Section One: Introduction

### SEND Code of Practice (2015)

**It is the education providers responsibility to ensure that children and young people with SEND engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who do not have SEND.**

Teachers must:

- set goals and outcomes that stretch and challenge learners of all backgrounds, abilities and needs
- be accountable for the attainment, progress and outcomes for all learners
- be aware of the learner’s capabilities and prior knowledge and plan teaching to build on these
- demonstrate an awareness of the holistic development of learners at different stages of development
- have a clear understanding of the needs of all learners, including those with special educational needs; exceptional abilities; English as an additional language; disabilities and be able to use and evaluate distinctive evidence based teaching approaches to engage and support their holistic development.

“Ordinarily Available Provision” refers to the setting based interventions and services that all Merton schools, early years and post 16 settings should be able to provide for children/young people, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), from within their own resources. By outlining a set of expectations, we are encouraging consistency between schools/settings across Merton.

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

This guidance is intended to support schools/settings to reflect and develop their inclusive provision to benefit all the children/young people in the school/setting, including those with SEND. The SEND Code of Practice, 2015 **links high quality teaching with ordinarily available provision:** “(Guidance)...higher quality teaching ordinarily available to the whole class is likely to mean that fewer pupils will require such support.” (Para 6.15).

This document has been co-produced with Kids First (parents/carer forum), Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs) and other stakeholders, along with consultation with health and children’s services professionals.

Whilst this document is primarily aimed at professionals, we also intend that this document will support parents/carers and children/young people themselves to better understand the support that will be provided for children/young people with SEND without an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Merton’s [Local Offer](#) also provides information and details of support services available for children and young people (aged 0-25) with SEND and their families within the borough.

## How to use Ordinarily Available Guidance

This guidance covers four broad areas of need: communication and interaction, cognition and learning, social, emotional and mental health, and sensory and/or physical needs. For each area, there are suggestions for strategies and interventions that can be used by all members of school staff and families alike, as well as examples of good practice from schools.

Some of these strategies include:

- Adapting the learning materials that some children use because they learn in a different way to others
- Providing visual aids, symbols, gestures or sign language to support communication
- Using positive behaviour management techniques and rewards to promote self-esteem and motivation
- Providing sensory breaks, equipment or adaptations to reduce stress and anxiety
- Collaborating with external agencies and professionals to access specialist advice and support

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

This guidance is not a one-size-fits-all approach. It is tailored to the individual needs and strengths of each child, taking into account their views and preferences, as well as those of their parents and carers. It is also flexible and responsive to changes in circumstances and progress over time. All Merton schools are on a journey towards developing their ordinarily available provision within their settings.

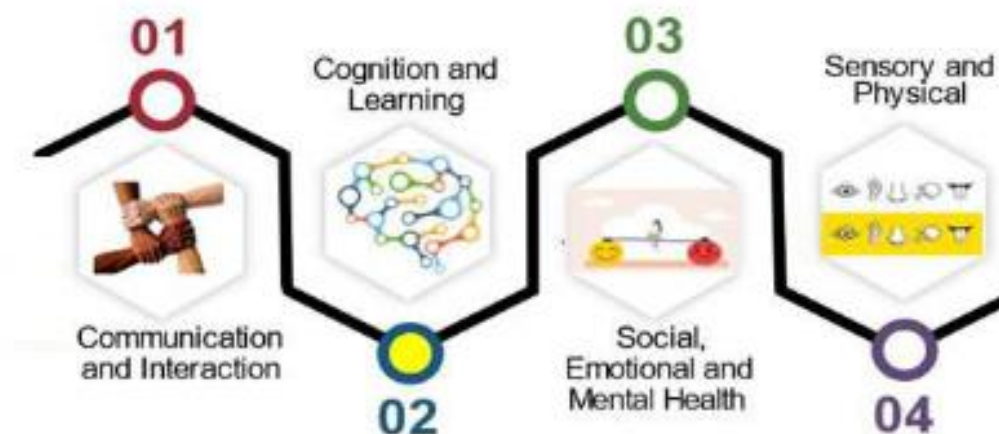
## **High quality teaching**

High quality teaching considers the needs of learners which then informs planning and delivery to make learning accessible - it may include strategies detailed in this toolkit. Ordinarily Available Guidance contains a range of additional strategies and interventions, in addition to high quality teaching, that should be considered for children and young people in line with their assessed special educational needs. It is important to note that all learners are different and not all strategies or interventions will be effective nor can they or should they be provided at the same time. It is important that settings and family carers use this resource to plan the support that is needed and effective.

## **Graduated response**

A graduated response refers to a systematic approach that provides a range of targeted interventions and support, which are carefully tailored to meet the specific needs of individual learners. When additional support is identified as needed for a child or young person the school should apply the “Assess–Plan–Do–Review” model as described by the Code of Practice so that support and actions needed to allow pupils to access the curriculum and make good progress are revisited, reviewed and refined. This approach places the child and family at the centre of the process.

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance



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# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Identification/ assessment of needs

- Teachers should understand what is 'typical language development' for the age of the young people (YP) they teach so they can identify YP who may have language difficulties, at as an early a stage as possible. They will be aware of common Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) and diagnostic terms.
- Class Teachers should understand that communication development depends on skills in key areas such as attention and listening, understanding (receptive language) talking (expressive language), social communication skills, speech sounds (articulation). They should start to identify some areas in which YP are having difficulty and be able to differentiate work, the environment and their communication style in order to support those areas of need.
- Teachers should have regular and consistent information in an accessible form for the Key Stage. This will inform their thinking, planning and teaching and will involve information access to and seek relevant information from parents/carers to inform their thinking collated by the SENCO/Inclusion Manager which may include: reading previous professional reports, relevant medical history e.g. hearing status, and what other languages a young person may know and how long they have been learning English.
- Class and subject Teachers should be aware that speaking more than one language has many benefits for YP and encourage parents to continue to speak additional languages at home. Teaching staff should have a basic awareness of bi-lingual language development including that there are possible indicators of SLCN in addition to a young person speaking more than one language, therefore, being bi-lingual does not mean the young person has SLCN.
- Teaching staff should be able to seek more information/support from colleagues in school with more specialist training when necessary. This may include more experienced colleagues, or colleagues that have attended training focusing on SLCN or English as an Additional Language (EAL) as well as or school SENCOs/Inclusion Managers.

## Links and relevant support available

Information about norms is available here

[Speech and Language - Ages and Stages -  
https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/talking-point/parents/ages-and-stages/](https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/talking-point/parents/ages-and-stages/)

Also see tables in EKLAN Language Builder book 5-11 & 11-16  
[www.elklan.org](http://www.elklan.org) (most schools have a copy)

See section below for relevant strategies and differentiation of the environment/communication style/curriculum tasks.

Introduction to supporting YP with SLCN / DLD awareness training- training offered at no cost to schools by the Merton Language, Behaviour and Learning Support Team, Speech & Language Therapy Service.

*Video training/info sheet on bi-lingualism to be developed for Merton website*

Online termly supervision of ELKLAN trained staff (no cost to schools).

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Identification/ assessment of needs

### Assessment of communication strengths and needs

Schools should have systems and processes to help staff assess and monitor YP's communication skills and language development. Teaching staff should be aware of options/support available in their schools to help them assess YP's skills in terms of attention and listening, play, social communication, understanding (receptive language) and talking (expressive language).

- Identified staff should be confident in using their school's assessment tool/processes which will highlight the strengths and needs of the young person and, enable the school to provide appropriate early support and strategies and monitor progress.
- The setting recognises, and responds to, the need for learning support for pupils with SEND, taking into consideration individual needs and other relevant contextual circumstances.

### Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) Guidance

The setting recognises, and responds to, the need for learning support for pupils with ASC, taking into consideration individual needs and other relevant contextual circumstances.

- Autism awareness and acceptance training is undertaken by all staff.
- Staff are aware of the strengths and differences associated with autism in general and with each individual pupil.
- Individual pupil profile or passports are created for all pupils with ASC by the SENCo (using information from their own voice, observations, parents/carers, previous settings and other agencies where appropriate) and these are sent to all relevant staff.
- Pupils' strengths and interests are used in lesson planning and target setting.
- Staff are made aware of conditions that co-occur alongside autism, and they are aware of how to access support for individual pupils with a range of needs.

## Links and relevant support available

This may include but not be limited to home language assessment.

Knowledge of typical development.

Communication checklists and screeners (e.g. Progression Tool)

Informal assessment e.g. Test of Abstract Language Comprehension (TALC)

Language & Learning Support Team S&LT SLCN checklist

Merton Autism Outreach Service (MAOS) offer support for staff around supporting the needs of pupils with autism (and those with social communication difficulties without a diagnosis). This is a free service to schools.

Merton Educational Psychology Service can be commissioned for advice regarding pupils with autism or social communication difficulties.



# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Environmental Supports and Adaptations

### Communication friendly teaching environments

Teaching staff should be able to reflect on the physical environment in school/class and how that can support YP's learning especially in terms of supporting attention and understanding. Areas to consider include

#### **Classroom structure**

- Seating plan – away from distractions where possible, near the front in some cases
- Attention enabling posture
- Display of expected voice levels
- Quiet areas for down time for when a young person is feeling overwhelmed and for small group work
- Adult sorting out “groups” using strategies to ensure that vulnerable YP are in supportive groups and are not left out
- Use of differentiated ways of students receiving the homework which has been set, with clear information and instructions to ensure that YP can succeed.
- Good listening skills promoted across the class/school and referred to in lessons – staff to wear good listening skill symbols on their lanyard at Secondary School, prominent wall displays which are frequently pointed out to young people.

#### **Visual support**

- Teaching staff should be able to access training about visual support, understand the importance of visual support and its various functions and consistently use visuals in class depending on the individual needs of pupils
- Visual timetables in classrooms and referred to during lessons. Items completed are removed from the timetable/ticked off. Consistency of format and use individual checklists at secondary schools
- Written and numbered outline of what is going to happen in the lesson for the whole class. Tasks ticked off as they are completed
- Now and next boards as needed for individual YP
- Clear and consistent classroom rules visually displayed age appropriately
- Tasks broken down into step by step written and numbered instructions for the whole class
- Tasks broken down into detailed step by step written and numbered instructions on YP's personal small white board or notebook

## Links and relevant support available

Audit forms and checklists are available to support schools auditing their practice e.g.

Active listening resources and training available on request through buyback.

Training material on using visual support to be developed and uploaded to Merton Website.

Group roles e.g. in Clever Communication Kit (CCK)

Introduction to supporting YP with SLCN training.

Elklan books: Language Builders for Verbal ASD for practical examples of visual support.

Introduction to supporting YP with SCLN (free)

*Training video on ACI strategies to be developed and added to website (free)*

See the Clever Communication Kit (CCK) folder provided to each school in 2015

Merton Autism Outreach Service (MAOS) offer support for staff around supporting the needs of pupils with autism (and those with social communication difficulties without a diagnosis). This is a free service to schools.

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Environmental Supports and Adaptations

### Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) Guidance

There is an emphasis on visual teaching aids to support learning and social activities.

- Tasks are routinely differentiated by level/outcome/pitch/pace and grouping.
- Staff are skilled in adjusting the pace and order of activities to maintain interest and attention. This is monitored by the SENCo on a termly basis.
- Specialist resources are available, such as fiddle toys, stress balls, Occupational Therapy (OT) seating like ball chairs, pencil grips, OT cushions and weighted equipment.
- Consideration is given to the environment to cater for individual needs, such as reduction in distractions, visuals, colour-coding, structured and ordered, low arousal, soft furnishings etc

## Links and relevant support available

Merton Autism Outreach Service (MAOS) offer support for staff around supporting the needs of pupils with autism (and those with social communication difficulties without a diagnosis). This is a free service to schools.

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Approaches and Strategies

### Adult/child interaction

School staff should be aware of strategies they can use when talking to YP to support their processing of information, understanding and talking. This is helpful for all YP including those with EAL.

- **Say less** - helps YP pick out key words.
- **Stress** key words- highlights important information.
- **Go slow** - pausing and reducing rate of speech makes it easier to understand and gives the young person time to understand what was said and formulate responses.
- **Show** - use of visuals reduces reliance on auditory information and memory.

### Other key strategies

- Repeating information, recasting (saying it again with a correct model), asking a question and pausing and if a YP can't answer giving them 2 options.
- Chunking and breaking down instructions.
- Matching your level of language to that of the YP, using their interests.
- Commenting on what the YP is doing.
- Modelling simplified language.
- Follow the lead of the YP's conversation – reduce questioning

### Strategies to support regulation and reduce anxiety for students with social communication difficulties

- Have in place clear routines and warnings/preparations for changes.
- Use of timers to help YP know how long they have to complete a task – and to help them transition between tasks.
- “Safe places” to go at break and lunch times for YP who find interacting in the playground stressful, for example, lunch clubs, monitor jobs such as tidying the library.
- Use of time-out (learning break) cards for YP before they feel overwhelmed and are at risk of having a melt-down (linked in with below) (junior and secondary)
- Use of Now/Next boards or notes on piece of paper.
- Use of strategies to support emotional regulation and awareness, such as the Amazing 5 Point Scale, Zones of Regulation, Blob tree for use with individual YP and whole classes.
- Good transition planning when moving year groups – ensuring that advice/strategies are passed on with the YP to the new teacher and young person has opportunities to visit new class/setting.
- Transition activities e.g. in groups when moving year groups or schools.

Secondary Guidance

## Links and relevant support available

*Video reflection such as 'VERVE' can support development of these skills – package to be developed if requested* Speech & Language Therapy tool.

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Approaches and Strategies

### Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC) Guidance

#### **Differences understanding what is being communicated to the C/YP:**

- Check that hearing has been tested.
- Engage the YP's attention before talking to them, use their name to alert them.
- Consider how many key parts involved in instructions and information
- Tailor delivery style according to the learner's needs which will seem like "bossy talk" (give name and clear short instruction) or break language into chunks.
- Provide visual prompts including key vocabulary and visual timetables.
- Allow take up time to process information.
- Pre-teaching of topic vocabulary.
- Use of 'first, then, next...'
- Help young person understand or use social rules of communication:
  - Modelling/role play/video/soap operas/Disney films.
  - Small group sessions (for example, circle of friends).
  - Social stories/Cartoon conversations. (Training can be accessed through SLT service)
  - Prompts – symbols, signing systems.
  - Now (you are doing this) and Next (you are going to be doing that) boards.

#### **Differences saying what they want to and being understood:**

- Modelling language.
- Small group or individual language sessions.
- Allow time for the young person to process and respond (10 second rule).
- Introduce a variety of language through rhymes, songs, poetry, jokes etc.
- All attempts to speak are supported.
- Providing an additional method of communicating, such as use of ICT and AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication).

## Links and relevant support available

Merton Autism Outreach Service (MAOS) offer support for staff around supporting the needs of pupils with autism (and those with social communication difficulties without a diagnosis). This is a free service to schools.

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Approaches and Strategies

### **Differences with use of language & communication:**

- Awareness of range of purposes for which language can be used through modelling: (some YP may need language-rich talk, others may need it to be kept simple by chunking instructions and information).
- Use the YP's name first to draw their attention, followed by key word instructions, such as "Jamie, stop!" or "Amy, look."
- Model and agree ways for the YP to gain other's attention e.g. hand up, wait and ask for help appropriately
- Using literal language (avoiding idioms, sarcasm, figures of speech, simile, metaphor etc unless taught). Explain non-literal language when used in text books or in lessons.
- Enable and model use of language to express emotions
- Awareness of what would be an appropriate tone of voice (calm, not too loud) for the setting.
- Awareness of what would be an appropriate environment (noise, room temperature, lighting, room layout and seating plan for YP).

### **Difficulties with creating and sharing ideas:**

- Roleplay and drama, use of props such as puppets.
- Modelling.
- Storytelling.
- Photos/pictures/keywords/writing frames.
- Give examples to choose from.
- Incorporate their special interest rather than trying to curtail it

### **Difficulty with social communication and developing relationships:**

- Small group/1 to 1 tasks and activities.
- Lunchtime clubs.
- Hearing a younger pupil read.
- Buddy system.
- Giving roles in groups including what they should say e.g. scribe, reporter, time keeper

## Links and relevant support available

*See Clever Communication Kit - CCK*

*See CCK and Elklan Secondary Language Builders (11-16) "Multiple Meaning Trees"*

*Use Zones of Regulation approach (Ask LBL/EPS/OTS about information & training).*

*Noise indicator/noise prefect – see CCK*

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Approaches and Strategies

### **Anxiety in busy unpredictable environments:**

- Preparation for change of activity or routine – verbal and visual notification as soon as possible with an explanation if appropriate (e.g. the hall is flooded so no P.E.)
- Small group/1 to 1 tasks and activities.
- Allocation of a safe space and person to go to during time out.
- Agreed rules and prompts (e.g. timers) for time out sessions
- Clear communication of expectations.
- Regular mentor support, including adults or peers.
- Visual timetable to be used in setting/school.

### **Sensitivity to sensory stimuli:**

- Sensory breaks.
- Allow eating of lunch away from the dinner hall.
- Flexibility with uniform policy.
- Consideration to the environment, including noise, room temperature, visual stimuli, proximity, lights.
- Flexible approach to transitions, such as between lessons and to and from school
- Agree the use of ear defenders in lessons and around school if required
- Pass to leave lessons and school 5 minutes earlier if required

### **Physical outbursts causing harm to others and/or to self and/or damage to property:**

- A consistent approach to managing individuals with “reasonable adjustments” made.
- Understanding the frequency and location of triggers.
- Understand the autism – features that might cause these outbursts
- Communication with families about what might be happening at home (like divorce, bereavement, illness) and strategies that work/don’t work and relaying this information to staff.
- Use of Time out Card to access Safe space
- Appropriate de-escalation strategies in place (such as time out cards, count downs, fidget objects, reduce verbal language to YP when they are stressed).
- Risk management plan.
- Reintegration plans.
- A clear plan of action, agreed with parents regarding physical intervention.
- Follow up with Comic Strip Conversations/Communication Cartoons to help YP with self-understanding and understanding of others

## Links and relevant support available

*CCK – role cards for lanyards/badges/stands*  
*Lego Therapy (contact S&LT Team for updated training)*

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## **Approaches and Strategies**

### **Staff recognise emotional needs and provide support for emotional regulation using:**

- Emotional regulation schemes, such as The Zones of Regulation or The Incredible 5 Point Scale.
- Mapping The Landscape.
- Access to physical activity/learning breaks.
- Sensory activities.
- Calm/withdrawal spaces.
- Reduced demands/reduced language.

### **Limited attention span compared to developmentally appropriate milestones:**

- Regular, short breaks
- Differentiation
- Chunking, breaking tasks down, listing the steps
- Visual timetables
- Backward chaining – chain parts of the task together (for example, build the sequence at the last part of the task and working back so the young person experiences success and then gradually work back to increase more elements until they can do the entire task).
- Named instructions.
- Asking the young person to explain what activity they are going to do and e.g. put the information on a task tick sheet.
- Use of timers, so they know they only have to focus for a comfortable amount of time.
- Individualised timetables sometimes building in aspect of their interest as a reward.
- Include extension work on the individual timetable as adding it could lead to problems

## **Links and relevant support available**

*Elklan TA has Secondary Language Builder book*

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Useful Resources (such as guidance, parent/family support and websites)

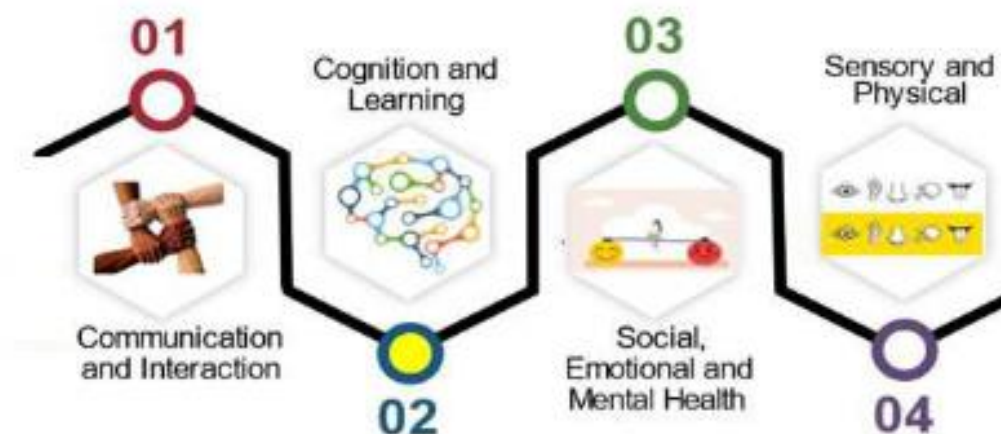
[www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/whatworks](http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/whatworks) [educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidencesummaries/teaching-learning-toolkit/](http://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidencesummaries/teaching-learning-toolkit/)

### **Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC) Guidance**

- [Merton Local Offer](#)
- Merton Autism Outreach Service (MAOS) – a free service to schools for staff.
- Merton Special School Teaching Alliance (MSTA) – offer CDP on a range of topics including autism.
- Cricket Green School are the Merton Hub for the Autism Education Trust (AET) licenced to deliver training on a range of subjects to Early Years, schools and Post 16 settings.
- National Autistic Society accredited Parent Support Programmes **EarlyBird+ & Teen Life**. Parents need to self-refer by calling Cricket Green School 0208 640 1177 (option 3).
- [National Autistic Society - http://www.autism.org.uk/](http://www.autism.org.uk/)
- [Ambitious About Autism - https://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/information-about-autism/coronavirus-and-autism/resources](https://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/information-about-autism/coronavirus-and-autism/resources)
- Merton Information Advice and Support Service ([MIASS](#)) – formerly Merton’s Parent Partnership Service
- Centre for Autism and ADHD Support [Centre for Autism and ADHD Support - https://adhdandautism.org/](https://adhdandautism.org/)
- [Kids First - Parents Forum - https://directories.merton.gov.uk/kb5/merton/directory/service.page?id=SbbK\\_b4r9IY](https://directories.merton.gov.uk/kb5/merton/directory/service.page?id=SbbK_b4r9IY)



# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance



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# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Identification/ assessment of needs

### General Guidance:

- Knowledge of YP is thorough e.g. what are their strengths, challenges and how best do they learn, and it is recorded in a meaningful way, e.g. Pupil Passport where the voice of the YP is noted.
- Staff can identify and help the young person to understand their learning strengths and weaknesses.
- Appropriate information sharing systems are in place within schools and contains the relevant information for each YP, e.g. English as an Additional Language (EAL), Pupil Premium (PP), Special Educational Needs (SEN).
- Staff are aware of the guidance relating to Age Related Expectations in their subject areas and take into consideration other possible influences upon learning progress, such as EAL, language development, attendance and medical diagnosis
- Schools should have robust tracking and pupil progress tools in place to pinpoint any gaps in pupils learning and are used to inform future planning which is effective.
- Assessment over time using the ‘assess, plan, do, review’ process is understood and used appropriately. However, if the adaptations have been made over a period of time the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) should gather information through classroom observation, via the young person and parents and investigate any other possible areas of need.
- Appropriate and informed application of recognised individual reading, spelling, and numeracy assessment to gain further insights into difficulties. As referred to in Measuring What Matters – link.
- All pupil’s learning is reviewed at Pupil Progress meetings and appropriate adults are informed and the SENCo is in attendance where possible.
- Staff should understand the effectiveness of adjustments, modifications and adaptations and share information and good practice across curriculum areas and staff.
- Extra time and special arrangements are applied to internal assessments as part of everyday adaptations of assessment.
- School staff may seek further advice/information via the SENCo/subject leads/experienced colleagues.

Evidence of progress may be gained through other formats e.g. video, photos, QR codes, verbal feedback.

## Links and relevant support available

Merton Guidance and Assessment support packages for Early Reading, Reading, Writing, Spelling and Mathematics Oracy Guidance soon to be available  
 Draft oracy project Maps  
 London Grid for Learning (LGfL) – useful EAL/assistive tools  
[Bell Foundation](#) for assessments to establish level of English  
 Herts for Learning – tracking purposes?  
 Measuring What Matters (Merton)-

### Useful assessments:

York Assessment of Reading Comprehension (YARC) – Early Primary – reading accuracy, single word, reading rate  
 Phonological Assessment Battery (PhAB) – phonological development  
 Helen Arkell Spelling Test (HAST) – spelling analysis tool

### COGNITIVE ABILITY TESTS (CATS)

Reading age and other data that can be gained from [Accelerated Reader](https://www.renaissance.com/products/accelerated-reader/) - <https://www.renaissance.com/products/accelerated-reader/>

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Environmental Supports and Adaptations

### General guidance:

- Classroom rules and expectations are visible, visually displayed and referred to during teaching time.
- Attention and good listening skills are promoted and a consistent approach within the school.
- Flexible groupings and seating so that YP can learn from their peers across the ability range
- Headphones where necessary.
- Making use of learning partners/buddies to promote learning.
- YP work in a safe environment where mistakes and errors are considered as a valued part of the learning process.
- Information is presented in a variety of ways and overlearning opportunities are carried out regularly.
- Visual aids are used such film-clips, diagrams, timetables, bullet points, YouTube clips, pictures, symbol support (InPrint3) and concrete resources to enable learning.
- All resources are easily accessed and clearly labelled (symbol supported) e.g. knowledge organisers, appropriate word banks, topic vocabulary, possibly placed in the learning box.
- Supportive materials on display are prominent in the environment and YP are directed to refer to them for previous and present learning.
- A focus on quality, rather than quantity of work making sure that recording is purposeful and appropriate to the needs of the YP and the task. Not all work has to be written for evidence and that a YP can record using different formats such as mind mapping, photographs, pictures, Post It Notes.
- Constructive feedback (in line with school policies) that allows for strengths to be built upon and illustrates how work could be improved; that supports the young person's understanding of their strengths and what they can do to further improve.
- Use of assistive technology is maximised where possible (and free) e.g. reading pens, immersive reader, text to speech technology, headphones.

## Links and relevant support available

[YouTube - How to Use Immersive Reader - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5e8liRAzrzE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5e8liRAzrzE)

Immersive reader with Chrome

Accessibility features via Google or Microsoft, Apple

Google extensions such as: colour overlays, Dyslexia fonts or Read&Write

London Grid for Learning (LGfL) – Word Q Speak Q

[Speaking and Writing Frames - The Bell Foundation \(bell-foundation.org.uk\)](http://bell-foundation.org.uk)

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Approaches and Strategies

### Difficulties due to Literacy – Reading:

- YP have access to a structured approach to the teaching of reading and phonics. With vocabulary teaching.
- Differentiated reading prompts and materials.
- Explicit teaching of vocabulary linked to the class text and supported by visual cues/symbols.
- Awareness of the hierarchy of questioning linked to BLOOMS TAXONOMY, BLANKS Key Stage 1.
- Simple uncluttered worksheets/slides/whiteboards, taking note of appropriate font and size, colour background, bullet points, subheadings, jagged edges etc.
- Reading is supported and prepared for through high-quality talk activities.
- Comprehension strategies are explicitly taught
- Awareness of strategies to promote fluency of reading e.g. echo and choral reading, performance reading and re-reading the same text multiple times.
- Text selection is inclusive and representative of YP.
- The use of assistive technology is readily available such as text to speech extensions e.g. Helperbird for Chrome,

### Difficulties with writing both compositional and transcriptional compositional:

- The development of oracy skills is given high importance and writing is supported by high quality talk activities.
- There is an understanding of the relation between expressive language and compositional writing Rich language environment where vocabulary is explored, discussed and generated.
- Awareness of prior experiences when designing writing tasks and what multisensory activities might be needed for first-hand experience.
- The different genres are modelled by an adult and the features of each genre taught in a structured format. Quality texts/video/YouTube clips are used to inspire YP's imagination for compositional writing.
- Sentence scaffolds/talk frames to support grammatical organisation of sentences used for all YP who need them.
- Scaffolds/writing frames (including the use of Widget/Communication in Print) used appropriate to individual needs to encourage/ support recording.
- Explicit teaching of the organisational skills required for longer pieces of writing e.g. The Structural and Grammatical features of particular genres of writing.
- School has an awareness of possible suitable approaches for SEN pupils to develop sentence writing.

## Links and relevant support available

[NASEN Teacher Handbook - https://nasen.org.uk/news/teacher-handbook-launched](https://nasen.org.uk/news/teacher-handbook-launched)

[Bloom tx revised combined.pdf \(utica.edu\) - https://www.utica.edu/academic/Assessment/new/Bloom%20tx%20revised%20combined.pdf](https://www.utica.edu/academic/Assessment/new/Bloom%20tx%20revised%20combined.pdf)

[Helperbird – YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5e8liRAzrE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5e8liRAzrE)

Reading comprehension strategies: [Reading Comprehension Strategies - https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/reading-comprehension-strategies](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/reading-comprehension-strategies)

Mote: audio feedback tool on Google extensions: <https://www.mote.com/>

Apps for reading - [Call Scotland - https://www.callscotland.org.uk/](https://www.callscotland.org.uk/)

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Approaches and Strategies

### Transcriptional:

- Explore the reasons underlying any difficulties with recording to identify the barrier, this could be related to physical, emotional or cognitive needs. e.g. core strength poor fine motor skills.
- YP receive support to use alternative recording which may include speech to text technology, predictive text and specialist software, word Q and speak Q.
- Some YP may require motivational activities to encourage them to write. Clarity about expectations and some YP may need to know how much writing is expected of them in a lesson.
- A structured approach to teaching spelling. (Merton guidance).
- A structured approach to teaching spelling which includes incorporating a variety of approaches such as analogy, 'identify' tricky parts, mnemonics, morphology. The use of multi-sensory teaching strategies including visual structure. \*
- Use of key vocabulary glossaries or predictive text to support spelling and word banks to support independent writing.
- Explicit teaching of how to use dictionaries, spell checker and or assistive technology such as Spelling Made Easy App.
- Finding the right age and stage to introduce touch typing as a method of recording.
- Alternative ways of recording are available for all YP and may include drawing, mind-mapping, apps, voice and video recordings as appropriate to the task and the YP.
- The use of human scribes is kept to a minimum, particularly in upper KS2 and beyond in order to promote independence and equip YP for adult life through the use of adaptive technology.
- Sentence scaffolds/ talk frames to support grammatical organisation of sentences used for all YP who need them.

## Links and relevant support available

Word Q Speak Q - free to Merton schools

It includes Word Prediction, Speech Recognition, Text to Speech, provides word lists and Spoken Feedback.

London Grid for Learning (LGfL) included 5 min help videos

Morphology Guidance – Learning Team

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Approaches and Strategies

### Numeracy:

- Selected to match the needs of the pupil and their prior learning.
- Time will need to be given for the pupil to become familiar with the resource before using it in a meaningful way, e.g. Numicon, ten frames, Cuisenaire, part-whole models. Explore the resource using mathematics they are familiar with, using a fluency range they are securely working within, e.g. numbers to 20, before using it to explore new learning or working within a more challenging fluency range.
- Return to a concrete representation if the pupil is showing confusion when moving to a visual representation too quickly.
- YP can often find the step from moving from a concrete or visual representation to a more abstract representation a challenge.
- Combine concrete/pictorial representations with more abstract representations to help YP notice important learning points e.g. using a number line combined with dienes or place value counters to understand how the sequence affects numbers.
- Use of multiple representations. For some YP, working with many different representations at once can cause confusion rather than help them make connections. Using a secure understanding of one, familiar representation as a springboard to introduce a different one can be beneficial.
- YP may need to stay with concrete for longer than expected before moving to a different representation or moving on to working in a more abstract way.

### Questioning:

- Use questions with clear intentions and supported with concrete and visual representations such as: What is.....? What's the same? What's different? True or false? Right or wrong? Which one is wrong? Is there a mistake?
- Starting with an open question, then subsequent questions are more closed, then going back to the open-ended question later.
- Repetition of questions in the same style or structure.
- Giving clear parameters to a question or task, e.g. there are three examples, but one is wrong. Which one? Why is it wrong? (Rather than posing the question broadly as, 'what's the mistake?').

## Links and relevant support available

[Improving Mathematics in Key Stages 2 and 3](https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/maths-ks-2-3)

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/guidance-reports/maths-ks-2-3>

[I See Maths - https://iseemaths.com/](https://iseemaths.com/)

[Top Marks - https://www.topmarks.co.uk/](https://www.topmarks.co.uk/)

[Ronit Bird - http://www.ronitbird.com/resources/](http://www.ronitbird.com/resources/)

Maths hub

<https://www.ncetm.org.uk/features/no-need-to-differentiate-in-primary-school-maths-lessons/>

[Mathematics Guidance - KS1 and KS2](#)

[EEF Improving Mathematics in Stages 2 and 3](#)

[Supporting pupils with SEND in a mastery context](#)

[Primary Mathematics in Merton guidance \(LGfL\)](#)

## Approaches and Strategies

### Language development:

- Break longer, complex stem sentences down into shorter statements.
- Use shorter stem sentences alongside concrete and pictorial representations.
- Oral rehearsal of stem sentences with a partner before giving an answer.
- Embedding questioning in every lesson through modelling question and answer stems with the whole class.
- Consistency in the use of language and the structure of the stem sentences.
- Waiting time (10 seconds suggested) for pupil to answer without interruption.
- Using physical signs and gestures.

### Curriculum design:

- Concept broken down into a series of very small steps.
- Small steps – sculpted with questioning.
- Return to prior learning before moving on.
- Repetition and overlearning.
- Using a fluency range (size of number) that is secure to illustrate a new concept before returning to the expected age-related fluency range.
- Allow more processing and thinking time.
- Consider how learning is presented visually to avoid unnecessary cognitive load.



# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Approaches and Strategies

### Difficulties with memory (cognitive load):

- Pre-teaching key vocabulary and concepts.
- Revisit previous teaching at the beginning of each lesson.
- New learning requires high level of instructional teaching.
- Pre-reading text.
- Use repetition and overlearning to reinforce long term memory, focusing on understanding.
- Modify the language demands of the tasks and be aware of overload of working memory.
- Use visual and word prompts as appropriate.
- Use of modelling with verbalisation.
- Work out strategies for memory with the YP.
- Ask the YP to repeat back what has been said e.g. when giving instructions.
- Use of learning partners e.g. explain the task, the process of task completion to your peer.
- Opportunities for retrieval practice e.g. low stakes quizzes to practice recalling.
- Strategies to manage anxieties to reduce the impact on memory and retention.
- Support YP to be aware of their own memory strengths and needs and teach strategies to support memory e.g. note taking, mind mapping.
- Make use of technology e.g. Play Button App.

### Processing difficulties

- Present the information and task in a variety of modalities e.g. verbal, written, graphical, pictorial or a combination of these.
- Observe how the YP gathers visual, auditory, kinaesthetic and spatial information.
- Carefully planned visual modelling plus verbal explanation of the task.
- Awareness of the YP's needs to avoid cognitive overload.
- Recognition of any spikey profiles and variations between expressive and receptive language and build on strengths
- Break the task into chunks if appropriate.
- Use thinking maps as a different way of presenting information.
- Time is given to process language, answer questions, process instructions.
- Use partner talk time to help YP process and gather their thoughts before sharing with the group e.g. Think, Pair, Share approach.
- Processing on written tasks takes longer to convey ideas, writing may need additional time so that completed work fully indicates ability
- Additional time for all classroom tasks/formal assessments and statutory tasks should be given. See Access Arrangements



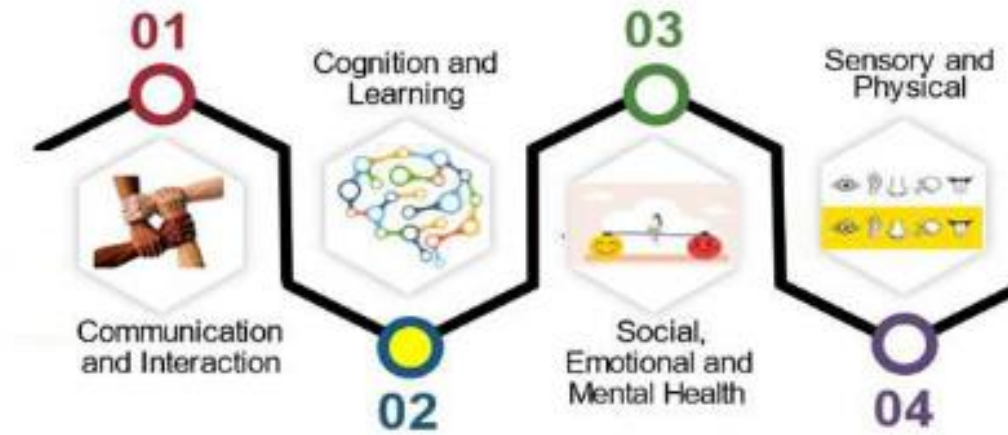
# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Other Useful Resources and Support Available

- [TRUGS \(Teach Reading Using Games\) - https://www.readsuccessfully.com/](https://www.readsuccessfully.com/)
- [The Five Minute Box - https://www.fiveminutebox.co.uk/](https://www.fiveminutebox.co.uk/)
- The Inference Training for Comprehension – Target Literacy (LBL)
- Phonological Awareness Training - Mental Starters, (LBL) Essex Phonological Awareness activities
- [SNIP Newsletter - http://www.snip-newsletter.co.uk/downloads.php](http://www.snip-newsletter.co.uk/downloads.php)
- [Sir Linkalot - The Future of Spelling - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_pwVgGhXde8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_pwVgGhXde8)
- ‘Write Away Together’ programme.
- FFT Spelling Intervention
- Precision Teaching Methods for HFW, topic words, number facts
- Toe by Toe
- [British Dyslexia Association - https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/](https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/)
- Merton Learning and Language Support Team
- [The Rose Review - https://dera.ioe.ac.uk/5551/2/report.pdf](https://dera.ioe.ac.uk/5551/2/report.pdf)
- [Brooks - What works for literacy difficulties - http://www.thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk/media/downloads/119-what-works-for-literacy-difficulties-6th-edition-2020.pdf](http://www.thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk/media/downloads/119-what-works-for-literacy-difficulties-6th-edition-2020.pdf)
- [British Dyslexia Association - Guidance for Parents - https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/advice/children/guidance-for-parents](https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/advice/children/guidance-for-parents)
- [Dyscalculia Network - http://www.dyscalculianetwork.com/](http://www.dyscalculianetwork.com/)
- [National Numeracy - http://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/](http://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/)
- [Dyslexia Assist - Guidance for Parents - https://dyslexia-assist.org.uk/for-parents/what-can-i-do-at-home-to-help-my-child/](https://dyslexia-assist.org.uk/for-parents/what-can-i-do-at-home-to-help-my-child/)
- [http://www.johnandwyn.co.uk/index.html - http://www.johnandwyn.co.uk/index.html](http://www.johnandwyn.co.uk/index.html)
- [My Study Bar \(Call Scotland\) - https://www.callscotland.org.uk/mystudybar/](https://www.callscotland.org.uk/mystudybar/)
- [Spelling Frame](#)
- [Barrington Stoke - https://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk/about-barrington-stoke/](https://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk/about-barrington-stoke/)
- <https://www.swft.nhs.uk/our-services/children-and-young-peoples-services/occupational-therapy/how-can-i-help-child-school> Programme 6: Handwriting - Fluency and Speed

**Refer to Merton Learning Team for further advice/support/assessment.**

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance



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# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Identification/ assessment of needs

### General Guidance:

- Staff working with young people (YP) should have an awareness of the risk factors which might make YP vulnerable to Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs (including Adverse Childhood Experiences – ACEs).
- Staff should understand that YP can present with SEMH needs without experiencing other Special Educational Needs (SEN).
- Staff can also distinguish between these factors and other factors that may impact on YP’s behaviour and engagement such as persistent absence, social care issues, housing, no recourse to public funds, etc.
- Pupil progress meetings include discussion of YP’s progress in their social and emotional development, in order to target interventions matched to specific areas of need.
- Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) or SEND team are involved in termly pupil progress meetings.
- Whole school systems are in place to identify those YP who are at risk of social exclusion and/or bullying.
- YP and parent voice is captured and is central to identifying the needs of individuals and cohorts so that intervention can be planned appropriately.
- Schools are proactive in understanding and responding to the impact that wider community, societal and political events and issues may have on their YP which may need further consideration.
- Staff should also have an awareness of protective factors and strengths-based approaches that can be utilised to support positive outcomes.
- There is close liaison with YP, families and relevant professionals and implementation of advice and strategies through the Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycle.
- Staff should be aware that all behaviour has meaning and communicates an underlying need which may indicate an unmet SEMH need. Schools will take steps to explore the underlying reasons for any behaviour.
- Schools should use a holistic, coherent approach using monitoring to enhance understanding of SEMH needs, for example through the use of recording, tracking and analysis of behaviour, such as ABCC, functional analysis, information shared via YP and families, relevant safeguarding information and an understanding of YP’s individual strengths and needs profile.
- An ongoing and reflective approach is required to gain insight into what is being communicated by the YP’s behaviour and what their needs are. YP voice should be central to this process.
- Schools should consider that school non-attendance may be anxiety- based (Emotionally Based School Avoidance) and staff will take steps to explore and understand this by working with the YP and family and by consulting with outside agencies where appropriate.
- The setting recognises, and responds to, the need for pastoral support for YP with SEMH needs, taking into consideration individual need and other relevant contextual circumstances.

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Identification/ assessment of needs

**Useful tools that schools can use to identify needs include (but are not limited to):**

- Boxall Profile
- Observations
- FAGUS
- SDQs
- Other wellbeing measurements e.g., Leuven, Social Skills audits, Happiness scale
- PASS
- THRIVE
- Executive Functioning Checklists

**Appropriate referrals to and advice may be sought from:**

- Virtual Behaviour Service
- Educational Psychologist
- Mental Health Professionals (e.g., MHSTs and CAMHS)
- Medical professionals such as a GP, paediatrician
- Early Help Service
- Occupational Therapy
- Traveller Education
- Virtual School
- Merton Sensory Support Service
- Early Years Inclusion Service

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Identification/ assessment of needs

### Attention Guidance

- The school recognises, and responds to, the need for support for YP with SEND, taking into consideration individual needs and other relevant contextual circumstances such as the legal framework around protected characteristics.
- Consideration of discipline procedures and or behaviour policies and any reasonable adjustments that need to be made must be in line with Equalities Legislation.
- Binary approaches to behaviour management such as “ready to learn” will be problematic for YP with attention and concentration needs and reasonable adjustments must be made.
- There should be strategies in place to develop and extend listening and attention, including availability of low arousal environment for some teaching and learning.

### **Useful tools that schools can use to identify needs include (but are not limited to):**

- Boxall Profile
- Executive Functioning Checklist
- Observations of engagement and emotional wellbeing e.g., Leuven Scale
- Sensory audits of learning environments to be completed
- Whole school observations to monitor attention in order to gain an understanding of individual vs environmental factors.
- Assessment through observation and or teaching (for example, are there parts of the routine/curriculum that they find easier to manage than others?).
- Understanding the reasons; is there a pattern? Use of ABC or STAR chart to identify patterns.
- Engagement with YP to gain their voice.

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Environmental Supports and Adaptations

### General Guidance:

- There is an agreed whole school behaviour policy based on current research and best practice.
- This focuses on relationships and recognises child and adolescent brain development; it is clear to all members of the school community; it is flexible to adapt to needs and is reflects actual practice within the school. Flexibility is embedded within the policy so that reasonable adjustments can be made to meet the diverse needs of YP.
- Staff have an understanding of the impact of shame and how this creates a barrier to accountability and learning.
- Regular reviews of policies and practice ensures reflection to avoid shame-based behaviour responses/escalations.
- There is a calm and purposeful climate for learning where the whole school community feel they belong, and their contributions are valid. Individual and group differences are recognised and celebrated in order to create a true sense of inclusion.
- All staff feel confident in having conversations about identity and difference and are sensitive to the way that difference can present within their school community, for example, family make up, separations, cultural differences, intersectionality.
- Clear policies and procedures are in place to support inclusion of all vulnerable groups taking into account gender, race, sexuality and disability.
- There is regular Continued Professional Development (CPD) and discourse regarding the needs of YP with SEMH needs.
- The social and emotional aspects of learning are understood and valued across all subject areas and can be seen in the school environment e.g., through displays, emotional check ins, etc. Whole school approaches that may be embedded include Emotion Coaching, Zones of Regulation, restorative approaches, nurture, peer mentoring and peer mediation.
- Staff understand the inherent vulnerability involved in learning and consider how best to scaffold and support vulnerable YP when planning e.g., open ended tasks, writing tasks, assessments, role play etc.
- Peer awareness and sensitivity to difference (including SEND) are promoted at a whole school level.
- Positive role models are identified as protective factors.
- Representation is considered at every opportunity to ensure all YP feel able to see themselves reflected in school life, e.g., through learning materials, displays etc.

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Environmental Supports and Adaptations

### Feeling safe:

YP feel safe and valued and are able to share their opinions and concerns.

- Staff understand the difference between actual safety and perceived safety and consider different aspects of this such as physical, social, emotional and cognitive safety.
- The physical space of the school environment is carefully considered and audited for meeting individual needs e.g., sensory needs.
- There are identified places within the classroom or school for withdrawal/calming/respice.
- YP can identify an agreed safe space. The boundaries around how/when this is available should be agreed, reviewed and communicated on an ongoing basis. Careful consideration needs to be given to how to manage areas where space is shared and may not always be available.
- YP are aware of the support network available in the school. YP can identify named adults/key workers when required. YP can identify who and what, in school, makes them feel safe, and what they should do if they are not feeling safe.
- Risk assessments are in place where needed and reviewed regularly with input from appropriate agencies where necessary.
- Individualised support plans, that take account of specific social, emotional, and mental health needs are implemented and regularly reviewed. This may include after significant incidents, following an increase in defensive/risky behaviours, when there is a risk of exclusion, when there are social care needs or other vulnerabilities identified.
- Physical spaces are audited and adapted to take account of YP needs, e.g., sensory audits may lead to use of zones, screens, adaption of displays/furniture.
- There are clear policies, understood by the school community to prevent and deal with incidents of bullying.
- Staff are aware that YP with SEN are more likely to be bullied and are mindful of the impact of bullying on YP's emotional and social wellbeing and mental health.
- Reasonable adjustments are offered around typical school expectations, e.g., changes to uniform to support sensory needs, toilet pass for anxiety and mental health needs as well as physical needs.

### Pupil voice and connection:

YP feel valued and seen as individuals. There are recognised processes for all YP to share their opinions and concerns. Consideration is given to how to encourage honest dialogue.

- Pupil voice is at the heart of school development. Voices of YP within marginalised and vulnerable groups, and those who may not find it easy to vocalise their views, are actively sought e.g., school council, reverse mentoring, involving YP in monitoring school development and collecting data.
- A range of different ways exist for YP to share worries and concerns with adults in the school. Staff understand the importance of attachment needs and YP are encouraged to build trusting relationships with key staff that they feel safe with.
- Groupings and seating plans encourage the maximum social interaction amongst groups of YP, staff are mindful to ensure that YP have opportunities to work with a wide range of YP e.g., by mixed ability groupings.

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Environmental Supports and Adaptations

### Curriculum, Provision maps and Process:

- Staff are supported to be aware of the individual needs of the YP they work with, and the key strategies required to meet their needs. This could include briefings on pupil needs, one-page profiles etc.
- Language used in the classroom promotes positive relationships (such as restorative approaches, emotion coaching).
- A whole school PSHE curriculum supports social and emotional development, and mental health and wellbeing of all YP and the wider community. There is a clear overview of how issues of diversity and inclusion are taught at each key stage.
- PSHE is used to draw attention to and develop wellbeing, resilience and emotional literacy.
- Pastoral support arrangements (e.g., Learning Mentors / Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSAs) enhance self-esteem, build confidence and enable anxiety management, providing opportunities to use specific approaches, such as buddying, rewards, responsibilities.
- Classroom routines, learning and behavioural expectations are communicated in a number of ways, including visuals (e.g., visual timetables) and are referred to regularly to address YP anxiety around uncertainty. These may be individualised where needed.
- All staff understand the importance of transitions in YP's lives and recognise that many YP with SEMH needs will require additional support to manage these, structures of support are therefore put in place to help YP to manage these times of uncertainty.
- Staff use a range of resources to support everyday transitions e.g., visual timetables, now and next boards, timers and plan carefully with other staff for more significant transitions including new staff, new year groups, new schools.



# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Environmental Supports and Adaptations

### Attention Guidance

Class and subject teachers adapt teaching styles to take into account specific needs of YP within lessons and across different subjects.

Flexibility of approach is demonstrated by making reasonable adjustments to activities, lessons (including Physical Education), timetables and their delivery, as necessary. This may include:

- Have a clear structure to the day.
- Personalised visual timetables.
- Make it clear to YP what the key focus points will be in each lesson where they will need to focus more intently.
- Use of timers, so YP know they only have to focus for a comfortable amount of time.
- Individualised timetables, which may feature task checklists and Now and Next boards.
- Space for privacy/quiet areas that can be used for 'down time', smaller group activities and which provide a less visually distracting area.
- Flexibility and consideration of sensory distractions in the environment. The use of support such as ear defenders, working in a quiet space and expecting the class to work quietly during tasks that are more demanding to be trialled to minimise auditory distractions, working while facing a wall, minimise visual distractions at the front of the classroom (surrounding whiteboard) to minimise visual distractions.
- Sit the YP near good "learning" role models.
- Try differentiated opportunities to develop attention, social and emotional development e.g., buddy system/paired learning activities/scaffolding group work.
- Being aware of times of the day that may be more difficult for example before lunch if hungry.
  
- Use readiness to learn strategies and routines, for example, after breaks or between tasks.
- Consider the impact of the timetable and how you prepare YP for transitions.
- Plan for transition between year groups /phases of education, including 'what works well' in terms of in-class differentiation, and support professionals to analyse the behaviour.
- Have a consistent seating plan for all lessons – primary or secondary.
- Have clear expectations regarding behaviours and a clear and consistent response to behaviours.
- Record behaviour and remember to analyse and review trends. Think about potential reasons for behaviour and is there a pattern?
- Allow plenty of time for movement or frequent small concentration periods.
- Plan lessons in small manageable chunks.
- Use small group/nurture group activities to support personal, social and emotional development.
- Consider whether any reasonable adjustments need to be made to discipline procedures / behaviour policies and ensure these are in line with equalities legislation.
- Remember to consult with the YP so they can share with you, their perspective.

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Approaches and Strategies

### General Guidance:

- A flexible approach to an appropriately differentiated curriculum, which takes into account the YP' needs and strengths, cultures, areas of interest, their preferred ways of learning, the range of subjects studied and a more personalised approach to the timetable. This should include opportunities for creative and play based learning and social and emotional development.
- Opportunities to build social relationships naturally as part of the school day, such as shared interest clubs or activities. A range of social and recreational activities are available with supervision and support as required. Additional scaffolding and support are planned for and implemented during less structured times for YP that need it. Staff are alert to spontaneous opportunities for learning during less formal times/activities.
- Significant thought is given to learning at social times as in formal academic lessons. This includes assessment and planning of the physical space (indoors and outdoors), the organisation of YP to promote social and emotional learning and develop relationships, what activities are offered, and how staff can model key skills through engagement and interaction at breaktimes.
- YP are consulted on what to do in their free time (such as at break and lunchtimes) both inside and outdoors, and are supported, as appropriate, by the provision of activities and opportunities for games and interactions with others.
- A reflective practice approach for supporting staff in schools to meet the needs of YP with SEMH (given the emotional load that this can entail) e.g., through the use of solution circles or circle of adults. It can also support staff to analyse their behaviour management approaches ensuring equity of practice for the diverse range of YP they support.
- Small group intervention programmes are offered to support self-regulation/self-management skills. Staff understand that some YP will need to be offered co-regulation before they can progress to self-regulation. Staff understand what this requires of them, and systems are put in place to review the impact of this.
- Access to evidence-based interventions, such as motivational interviewing, mindfulness, pre-teaching of concepts, mentoring, Theraplay, Drawing and Talking, Emotional Logic, Lego therapy, Lego Build to Express, Nurture groups, therapeutic groups.
- Small group interventions support YP' social and emotional learning where developmental gaps have been identified.
- Flexibility within the learning space (e.g., movement, standing up, cushions) and there is a clear rationale for seating plans.
- Key adults identified to support/mentor identified YP using targeted, evidence-based strategies and interventions.
- Schools should have visual supports available to support emotional regulation, such as the Zones of Regulation and/or The Incredible 5-point Scale.
- 'Social Stories' can be written to support YP with coping plans.
- Learning breaks and calming activities (such as drawing/doodling/colouring, exercise, listening to music, sensory play, breathing exercises and co-regulation activities).

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Approaches and Strategies

### Attention Guidance

- Whole setting awareness training on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).
- Have clear expectations regarding behaviours and a clear and consistent response to behaviours.
- External aids and pre-teaching that sum up key information on a given subject; the YP can refer to the memory aid as needed.
- A memory aid can take the form of a schedule for the day, a list of criteria for completing a task such as a long-term project, a flow chart for completing a writing assignment, a clock face showing the time that a YP has to complete a task or even a simple, straightforward poster that is displayed in the classroom.
- Repeat information and make connections to other learning concepts.
- Present learning concepts in a variety of different ways, using visual aids and short sentences / instructions wherever possible.
- Break the information and tasks into smaller instructional units.
- Reduce the volume of work (quality vs quantity) while keeping the conceptual level appropriate to the young person's ability - focus on the most important learning tasks.
- Allow the YP to use reference tools (posters, dictionaries, lists of procedures).
- Activate the YP's previous knowledge and understanding of a topic by using pre-teaching (e.g., key vocabulary) and over-learning strategies (e.g., repeating information in a variety of ways, making connections to other concepts and visual supports). Make use of the young person's interests and lived experience.
- Ask the YP to reflect back what she/he has just heard; fill in any blanks.
- Personalise reference tools, memory aids, and routines.
- Provide a list of key words.
- Check young person's understanding before asking them to start a task.
- Support complex tasks such as writing with concrete/visual materials to establish concepts (e.g., scaffold writing tasks with visuals such as boxing up text and oral storytelling).
- Support young person who has difficulty with recording to develop personal organisation in response to timetabling/managing equipment/independence skills (e.g., using a checklist or a diary). Keep a flexible approach to recording evidence.
- Backward chaining – chain parts of the task together (for example build the sequence at the last part of the task and working back so the young person experiences success and then gradually work back to increase more elements until they can do the entire task).
- Being flexible around social expectations while the young person is working (e.g., allow YP to move around/stand up in class whilst working).
- Offer movement breaks within periods of more focused work.
- Consider placement on the carpet/classroom e.g., away from particular peers/ sitting near the front/on a chair.
- Use of emotional regulation strategies and check ins such as "Zones of Regulation"
- Present learning opportunities as challenges or as part of a play-based curriculum to encourage engagement.

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Useful Resources (such as guidance, parent/family support websites)

- [The Communication Trust - https://www.slcframework.org.uk/](https://www.slcframework.org.uk/)
- [Anna Freud - Schools in Mind - https://www.annafreud.org/schools-and-colleges/schools-in-mind/](https://www.annafreud.org/schools-and-colleges/schools-in-mind/)
- [The Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health \(ACAMH\) - https://www.acamh.org/](https://www.acamh.org/)
- [MindEd Hub - https://www.minded.org.uk/](https://www.minded.org.uk/)
- [Nurture UK - https://www.nurtureuk.org/](https://www.nurtureuk.org/)
- [Young Minds - Mental Health Charity For YP - https://www.youngminds.org.uk/](https://www.youngminds.org.uk/)
- [UK Trauma Council - https://uktraumacouncil.org/](https://uktraumacouncil.org/)
- CPD – core reading list for school staff
- [Childhood Trauma, the Brain and Social World - https://uktraumacouncil.link/documents/ChildhoodTraumathBrainSocialWorldv1.0.pdf](https://uktraumacouncil.link/documents/ChildhoodTraumathBrainSocialWorldv1.0.pdf)
- Parents and carers are signposted to the [Merton Local Offer](#)
- [Early Help Assessment - Effective Support for Families in Merton](#)
- [Merton Children and Families Hub](#)
- Educational Psychology Team
- Professional consultation with CAMHS Single Point of Access (SPA) [Where and how to refer to CLCH Services in Merton](#)
- [School Nursing Service](#)
- [Virtual School for Looked-After Children | Merton Council](#)
- [Merton Virtual Behaviour Service \(VBS\) | Merton directories](#)
- Merton Special Educational Needs Information, Advice and Support Service (MIASS) [miass@merton.gov.uk](mailto:miass@merton.gov.uk) 020 8543 8854
- CORC wellbeing measurements [mwb-toolki-final-draft-4.pdf \(annafreud.org\)](#)
- [Boxall Profile - https://new.boxallprofile.org/](https://new.boxallprofile.org/)
- [Fagus Educational Resource – Emotional and Social Development - https://www.fagus.org.uk/](https://www.fagus.org.uk/)
- [The Leuven Scale - Emotionally Healthy Schools - https://emotionallyhealthyschools.org/primary/the-leuven-scale/](https://emotionallyhealthyschools.org/primary/the-leuven-scale/)
- [Theraplay](#)
- [Foundation to Drawing and Talking Therapy - https://drawingandtalking.com/foundation](https://drawingandtalking.com/foundation)
- [Emotional Logic | Emotional Intelligence UK | Online Emotional Resilience, Support & Development - https://www.emotionallogiccentre.org.uk](https://www.emotionallogiccentre.org.uk)
- Lego Therapy
- [Lego Build To Express - https://thinkbrickseducation.co.uk/](https://thinkbrickseducation.co.uk/)
- Nurture groups [Home - NurtureUK](#)

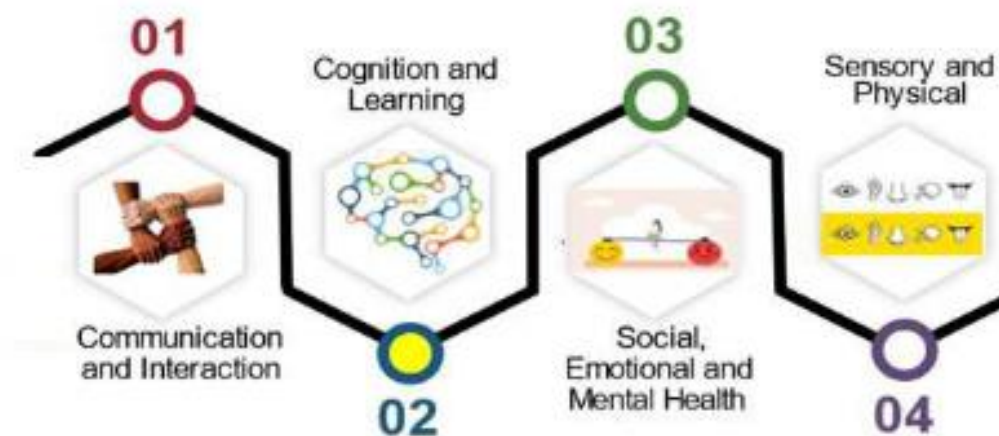
# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance

## Useful Resources (such as guidance, parent/family support websites)

### Attention Guidance

- [ADHD Foundation - http://www.adhdfoundation.org.uk/](http://www.adhdfoundation.org.uk/)
- [Foundation Centre for Autism and ADHD Support centre -www.adhdandautism.org](http://www.adhdandautism.org)
- [ADDitude - ADD & ADHD Symptom Tests, Signs, Treatment, Support - https://www.additudemag.com/](https://www.additudemag.com/)
- [Mind ADHD and mental health - Mind - https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/adhd-and-mental-health/](https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/adhd-and-mental-health/)
- [ADHD UK Support | ADHD UK](#)

# Merton Ordinarily Available Guidance



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## General Guidance including Assessment of Needs

### Physical Difficulties (PD)

Settings should provide accessible policies that are reviewed regularly and communicated/distributed effectively to meet the PD needs of their community. All staff, including supply and new staff, should be informed about the needs of YP with PD and medical needs through an induction programme, ensuring that these staff know how to support the needs of PD young person. Personalised plans generated in response to assessments and include as relevant access arrangements, health care plans and risk assessments.

Plans may take into account:

- Supervision arrangements at unstructured times.
- Administration of any medicines.
- Support to address personal needs such as toileting.
- Environmental audit to inform any necessary adjustments (such as ramps or rails).
- Fire evacuation and medical emergency plans to initiate and review a health care plan to address the YP's needs and emergency procedures.
- The physical difficulties of YP are identified effectively, communicated with relevant staff and documented in an appropriate support plan.

Specific assessments should be undertaken to establish the degree of potential implications for and impact on curriculum access. Assessments may include:

- Physical disability
- scope of disability
- physical restriction
- pain, mobility
- independence
- self-care
- communication
- therapy
- sensory needs.

Input at class and whole school level to raise peer awareness of the nature of different impairments and the support they can offer.

Young people (YP) and parents are actively engaged in decision making and planning for ongoing provision.

## General Guidance including Assessment of Needs

### Multi-Sensory Impairment (MSI)

The setting should recognise, and respond to, the need for learning support for YP with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities), taking into consideration individual needs and other relevant contextual circumstances.

The school should know that advice on support for YP with MSI should come from a Qualified Teacher of MSI (QTMSI) from Merton Sensory Support Service (MSSS).

All staff working with YP with MSI needs should undergo specialist training so that they understand the impact of their MSI on their access to the curriculum and learning. This will enable staff to provide the appropriate support and strategies to allow the YP to reach their potential in the mainstream.

Training must be provided by a QTMSI. MSSS provides a holistic package of support which includes comprehensive training, ongoing support and advice and direct service to YP and their families.

Following specialist assessment from a QTMSI specific strategies to be employed to allow the best access in a mainstream setting include:

- Advice on optimising the YP's auditory access to the curriculum such as appropriate seating and use of assistive listening technology.
- Advice on optimising the acoustic environment.
- Advice on optimising the visual environment.

MSSS have a monitoring system in place to assess the YP's needs, identify outcomes, advise on implementation of support and monitor and evaluate progress.

Referrals forms can be obtained from [SEN@merton.gov.uk](mailto:SEN@merton.gov.uk) and should be sent with evidence where possible.



## General Guidance including Assessment of Needs

### Hearing Impairment

The setting should recognise and respond to the need for learning support for YP with SEND, taking into consideration individual needs and other relevant contextual circumstances.

The school should know that advice on support for YP with hearing needs should come from a Qualified Teacher of Deaf (QToD) from MSSS.

All staff working with YP with hearing needs should undergo specialist training so that they understand the impact of their hearing needs on their access to the curriculum and learning. This will enable staff to provide the appropriate support and strategies to allow the young person to reach their potential in the mainstream.

Training must be provided by a QToD. MSSS provides a holistic package of support which includes comprehensive training, ongoing support and advice and direct service to YP and their families.

Following specialist assessment from a QToD specific strategies to be employed to allow the best access in a mainstream setting include:

- Advice on optimising the YP's auditory access to the curriculum such as appropriate seating, and use of assistive listening technology.
- Advice on optimising the acoustic environment.

MSSS have a monitoring system in place to assess YP's needs, identify outcomes, advise on implementation of support and monitor and evaluate progress.

Referrals forms can be obtained from [SEN@merton.gov.uk](mailto:SEN@merton.gov.uk) and should be sent with evidence where possible.

## General Guidance including Assessment of Needs

### Visual Impairment

The setting should recognise, and respond to, the need for learning support for YP's with SEND, taking into consideration individual needs and other relevant contextual circumstances.

The school should know that advice on support for YP with visual needs should come from a Qualified Teacher of Visual Impairment (QTVI) from Merton Sensory Support Service (MSSS).

All staff working with YP with visual needs should undergo specialist training so that they understand the impact of their hearing needs on their access to the curriculum and learning. This will enable staff to provide the appropriate support and strategies to allow the YP to reach their potential in the mainstream.

Training must be provided by a QTVI. MSSS provides a holistic package of support which includes comprehensive training, ongoing support and advice and direct service to YP and their families. Following specialist assessment from a QTVI, specific strategies to be employed to allow the best access in a mainstream setting include:

- Advice on optimising the YP's visual access to the curriculum such as appropriate seating and lighting, and use of technology.
- Additional needs to be met through delivery of the Expanded Core Curriculum MSSS have a monitoring system in place to assess YP needs, identify outcomes, advise on implementation of support and monitor and evaluate progress.

Referrals forms can be obtained from [SEN@merton.gov.uk](mailto:SEN@merton.gov.uk) and should be sent with evidence where possible.

## Environmental Supports and Adaptations

### Physical Difficulties

- Clearly defined spaces/areas for personal equipment and places of withdrawal are identified and available for therapies, developmental programmes, and/or special arrangement for personal hygiene.
- Careful consideration is given to the position of YP with PD in the classroom to allow for maximum independence of movement/access to resources and equipment.
- Reasonable adjustments and adaptations are made to the curriculum and the school environment including specialist equipment such as specialist seating, height adjustable work benches/ desks to facilitate access.
- Access Audits completed. Up-to-date Access Plans are available on the school's website.
- Schools Access Plans are in place, reviewed regularly and available on the school's website, with clear identified actions.
- Furniture organised to allow ease of wheelchair access and appropriate proximity to technology.
- Review of YP seating arrangements to ensure good posture management and easy access to support and teacher input.
- YP seating arrangements also need to be reviewed to ensure good posture management when the young person is eating, for example, to avoid the risk of choking.
- Careful positioning of specialist equipment and resources to ensure optimal usage.
- Application for Access Arrangements as appropriate

### Personal Care

- Assistance with the management of toileting needs should be provided sensitively to allow maximum access to the curriculum, the whole life of the school, and dignity in front of staff and peers.
- Responsibility to meet the needs of YP with delayed personal development; YP should not be excluded from any activity due to incontinence, sent home to change, or parents expected to attend school to deal with toileting needs.

### Multi-Sensory Impairment (MSI)

In addition to the advice given by QTVI and QToD, work with the QTMSI who can advise on the environment for each individual case

- A familiar and stable environment is required. This includes both the adult supporting the learner and the physical environment.
- The environment both physical and social will need to consider the best possible auditory and visual conditions. Older learners will need support to recognise and make changes to support this.
- Consider an environmental audit from the Habilitation Specialist for more specific advice as recommended by QTMSI
- The physical environment is adapted to meet the needs of learners.
- Application for Access arrangements to meet needs

## Environmental Supports and Adaptations

### Hearing Impairment

#### **Classroom Environment:**

- Ensure that background noise levels are kept to a minimum.
- Use soft furnishings to reduce reverberation.
- Avoid seating YP next to a noisy piece of equipment such as a fan or projector as this will be distracting and make it harder for them to hear.
- Seat the YP away from external noise e.g. open windows, doors, traffic noise.
- Do not allow other adults to complete noisy activities (resource preparation) during focused listening times.
- Ensure the room is well-lit.
- Application for Access arrangements to meet needs

#### **Wider environment- break time, Physical Education (PE), swimming:**

- Attract the young person's attention before speaking.
- Ensure that you face him/her so that they can lipread.
- The YP will find it more difficult to hear in the noisy environment of a swimming pool. Hearing aids cannot be worn. Using a handheld white board or flip chart to give written instructions is helpful.
- In field sports, young person may not hear their peers calling them to pass the ball etc. Their peers need to be aware of this.
- Creative positioning (e.g. vertical seating) in assemblies so that YP can access lip patterns and whiteboards more easily without the stigma of sitting at the front with younger students.
- Opportunities to meet with other deaf YP both in school (where possible) and in social events such as clubs, community groups etc.
- Access to learning materials, books, videos which include deaf characters or themes about deafness.
- Opportunities to meet and engage with deaf role models within the community.
- Access to school clubs and activities with deaf friendly resources and experiences.
- Empower the YP to understand and learn to manage their own hearing needs and the technology they use.
- Encourage self-advocacy so the YP can explain their needs to others.

## Environmental Supports and Adaptations

### Visual Impairment

- Ensure lighting is suitable (see advice from QTVI).
- Eliminate glare – use blinds. ·
- Consistent and clutter free classroom layout. ·
- If necessary, get an environmental audit from the Habilitation Specialist for more specific advice on highlighting steps etc.
- Consider whether an early lunch pass or a quiet space in the playground is needed
- Many YP will need to taught skills to navigate their environment independently and safely.
- Assess YP and provide individual Habilitation/mobility lessons as appropriate e.g. independent travel, route learning, road safety skills, practice with public transport.
- Assess if necessary to provide extra support in unfamiliar environments i.e. school trips, even though their mobility may be excellent within the school buildings.

Application for access arrangements

## Approaches and Strategies

### Physical Difficulties

- Class and subject teachers should adapt teaching style to take into account specific needs of YP within lessons and across different subjects.
- Flexibility of approach is demonstrated by making reasonable adjustments to activities, lessons (including PE), timetables and their delivery, as necessary.
- YP should have full access to school trips/learning outside of the classroom.
- Flexible grouping arrangements to facilitate both peer and adult support to improve access to the curriculum and encourage independent learning.
- Teaching takes account of physical and medical needs, and outcomes are differentiated to allow for a focus on developing their targets.
- Adults look for signs of fatigue or frustrations during different lessons or subjects or at parts of the day or week.
- Ability to develop positive peer interactions, especially during unstructured times such as the lunch break. Specific activities are in place to overcome physical difficulties, for example alternative ways of recording are used across the curriculum including the daily use of laptop/tablets.
- The curriculum actively promotes positive attitudes to disability.
- Additional access to ICT, specialist aids and adaptation to facilitate access to the curriculum. Pace of lessons adjusted with rest breaks built in as required.
- Differentiation techniques are widely used to promote full access to practical activities. The curriculum addresses learning needs (including styles of learning and uneven ability profiles) as well as their emotional wellbeing, their communication needs and life skills.

## Approaches and Strategies

### Multi-Sensory Impairment (MSI)

#### Access to the curriculum:

In addition to the advice given by Qualified Teacher for Visual Impairment (QTVI) and Qualified Teacher of the Deaf (QToD), work with the QTMSI who can advise on access for each individual case.

- YP with multi-sensory impairment (MSI) have impairments of both sight and hearing.
- Many YP also face other challenges, such as medical conditions or physical disabilities.
- Hearing and sight are our primary means of gaining information from the environment, particularly beyond arm's reach. MSI, therefore, creates enormous disadvantage for young people in terms of knowing where they are, and what is happening to and around them.
- Providing opportunities to establish concepts introduced and hands-on activities to develop the concepts and grasp information other YP pick up indirectly.
- Opportunities across the curriculum to generalise concepts in a range of ways. This will include repetition and variety but will support a reduction in dependency on prompts and context.
- Incorporating pre-learning (preparation) and post-learning (reinforcement) strategies.
- Effective use of assistive devices, IT, and other specialist equipment.

#### Classroom Management:

In addition to the advice given by QTVI and QToD, work with the QTMSI who can advise on classroom management for each individual case.

- Small group work facilitated by an adult, within the classroom or on a withdrawal basis.
- Visual/audio demonstrations and visual cues/audio commentary are used.
- Tasks are broken down into small manageable steps. These steps are shown explicitly.
- High staffing ratios from a small consistent group of key adults who can develop trusted relationships with effective communication.
- The use of an intervenor - the role of the intervenor is to effectively facilitate access to information usually gained through sight and hearing and other senses that is incomplete or missing for the young person who is MSI.
- A multi-agency approach to support from across health, therapy and education services will be essential to meeting the complex needs of individual learners

## Approaches and Strategies

### Communication:

In addition to the advice given by QTVI and QToD, work with the QTMSI who can advise on communication for each individual case.

- Supporting the development and use of communication skills and facilitating effective communication (expressive and receptive)
- Assisting the YP to anticipate events – use of calendars and timetables and ‘Now and Next’ boards.
- Routines to be consistent with appropriate cues used to develop learners understanding of anticipation, communication, and control.
- Once established mis matches or deliberate mistakes can be introduced to encourage spontaneous communication from the learner.
- Communication may include, sign, speech, symbols and pictures, gesture, and nonverbal communication. Expressive and receptive methods may be different and varied.
- Learner’s behaviour should be regarded as communication, even if it is not seen as intentional.
- Learner’s receiving distorted sensory information through their vision and hearing will take longer to process interaction. Ensuring the pace of learning matches each learners’ sensory needs will be essential.

### Mobility/Independence:

In addition to the advice given by QTVI and QToD, work with the QTMSI who can advise on mobility and independence for each individual case

- Encouraging and facilitating independence and providing opportunities to make choices and decisions (maintaining a sense of control, self-determination)
- Learning through movement and shared experiences will be essential. For example, acknowledging an action, reflecting the learner’s movement, modelling the next step. Intensive interaction will be a key part of this process.
- Strategies from a Habilitation Specialist with experience in MSI.
- Supporting the development of motor skills, independent mobility, and orientation
- Implementing individual programmes devised by involved therapists, with appropriate training and supervision

### Personal, Social and Emotional:

In addition to the advice given by QTVI and QToD, work with the QTMSI who can advise on PSE for each individual case

- Promoting social and emotional well-being
- Supporting positive interactions with others and teaching acceptable strategies



## Approaches and Strategies

### Hearing Impairment

#### Access to the curriculum:

#### Technology:

- Ensure that any personal hearing technology (hearing aids, speech processors etc.) are worn and working well.
- Use radio aids and/or Soundfield systems as advised by QToD.
- Complete daily checks of technology including functional listening checks to ensure it is working as it should.
- Seat YP towards the front of the class in a position in line with advice from the QToD. For hearing aid users this should be no more than 1.5 metres from the teacher.

#### Classroom Management:

- Give an outline of the content of the lesson at the beginning.
- Briefly recap the main points of the lesson at the end.
- Write key words / ideas on the whiteboard.
- Clearly signal changes of topic.
- Use handouts and visual aids whenever possible.
- Rephrase rather than repeat information that has not been understood
- Re-present comments made by other YP.
- Check that YP have understood the work by using open questions.
- Use subtitles for videos.
- Do not ask YP to make notes while listening to/watching a video clip or a live speaker.
- Where possible, provide opportunities for pre-teaching
- Eliminate unnecessary interruptions during focused listening times
- Work with the QToD who can advise on classroom management for each individual case.

#### Group conversation management:

- Ensure that only one person talks at a time.
- Repeat what others have said.
- Ensure questions and answers have been heard and made clear.
- Identify the next speaker to allow the YP time to turn and watch.
- Summarise or review the main points that have been discussed.

## Approaches and Strategies

### Communication:

- Stand where YP can see your face. Avoid standing in front of a window/with the light behind you which causes your face to be in shadow and prevents access to lip-patterns
- Face the class whenever giving information; do not talk while writing on the whiteboard or facing away from the YP or class.
- Avoid walking around whilst talking to the class. Speak clearly and naturally, do not over-exaggerate lip patterns or speak too slowly.
- Make full use of natural gesture and facial expression.
- Use visual aids to support understanding.
- Regularly check for understanding using open questions. Avoid questions that can be answered with a yes/no response.

### Visual Impairment

#### Access to the curriculum:

#### Learner characteristic:

- Learners may have missed out on incidental learning which is vital for concept development · Don't ask the YP if they can see something - they will usually say yes.
- Use concrete and hands-on experience whenever possible.
- Slanted desks can aid posture and make learning more comfortable.
- Allow more time to complete tasks and provide rest breaks. ·
- Do not lower expectations because the YP has a visual impairment.
- Be discreet - the YP may dislike being seen to be different.

#### Learning Resources:

- Use large print on A4/modified large print worksheets.
- Printed materials should be clear and high contrast.
- Avoid clutter on visual materials.
- Arial font is preferable, avoid italic or ornate script. Lower case letters are easier to read than capitals.
- Supplement any visual information with clear verbal explanation.

## Approaches and Strategies

### Technology:

- Some learners will need to learn specialist skills (Extended Core Curriculum) such as touch-typing, braille, ICT, all of which require specialist support and training.
- Encourage the YP to use assistive technology, visual aids, resources that have been prescribed such as iPad, magnifiers, glasses, large print books, e-books. · Use digital and audio versions of curriculum texts and reading materials using RNIB Bookshare, RNIB Digital services, National Accessible Library.

### Classroom Management:

- Use the YP's name when seeking their attention.
- Seat YP in seat advised by QTVI.
- Give clear instructions as the YP may not see gestures and facial expression

### Mobility and Independence:

Many YP will need to be taught skills to navigate their environment independently and safely.

- Assess YP and provide individual Habilitation/mobility lessons as appropriate e.g. independent travel, route learning, road safety skills, practice with public transport.
- Assess if necessary to provide extra support in unfamiliar environments i.e. school trips, even though their mobility may be excellent within the school buildings.

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

Growing up with a visual impairment can affect a YP's self-esteem. Be aware of strategies that tackle this, including raising awareness amongst peers.

- Visually impaired YP can miss non-verbal cues and may benefit from being deliberately taught social skills.

Encourage self-advocacy so that the YP can explain their needs to others.

## Useful Resources (such as guidance, parent/family support websites)

### Physical Difficulties

- Training
- Parent support

### Multi-Sensory Impairment (MSI)

Advice and support can be found by contacting: Merton Sensory Support Service - [sen@merton.gov.uk](mailto:sen@merton.gov.uk)

- A Curriculum for Multi-Sensory Impaired Children from MSI unit, Victoria School Birmingham:
- [MSI curriculum - Sense - https://www.sense.org.uk/information-and-advice/for-professionals/resources-for-education-and-early-years-professionals/msi-curriculum/](https://www.sense.org.uk/information-and-advice/for-professionals/resources-for-education-and-early-years-professionals/msi-curriculum/)
- [SENSE - https://lbmerton.sharepoint.com/sites/SEN/SEN/Ordinarily%20Available%20Guidance/Secondary/a](https://lbmerton.sharepoint.com/sites/SEN/SEN/Ordinarily%20Available%20Guidance/Secondary/a) provides information, advice, and support for Multi-Sensory Impaired YPs, their families and settings:
- Early Support provide information about multi-sensory impairment for parents and carers:
- [Early Support Multi-sensory impairments - https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/files/earlysupportmulti-sensoryimpairmentsfinal2.pdf](https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/files/earlysupportmulti-sensoryimpairmentsfinal2.pdf)

### Hearing Impairment

Advice and support can be found by contacting: Merton Sensory Support Service - [sen@merton.gov.uk](mailto:sen@merton.gov.uk)

- The NDCS (National Deaf Children's Society) provides information, advice and support for YP with hearing needs, their families and settings. [www.ndcs.org.uk](http://www.ndcs.org.uk)

### Visual Impairment

Advice and support can be found by contacting: Merton Sensory Support Service - [sen@merton.gov.uk](mailto:sen@merton.gov.uk)

### **Further help for families:**

- **RSBC Family Support Service**
  - Telephone no: 020 3198 0225
  - Email: [enquiries@rsbc.org](mailto:enquiries@rsbc.org)
  - Website: [www.rsbc.org.uk](http://www.rsbc.org.uk)

### **For audio books:**

- [Calibre Audio Library - http://www.calibre.org.uk/](http://www.calibre.org.uk/)

### **Further help for education professionals:**

- [RNIB Bookshare - http://www.rnibbookshare.org/](http://www.rnibbookshare.org/)
- Further information for all stakeholders: