

**What are we aiming for students to achieve through our My World and Me curriculum? (Intent)**

This curriculum area focuses on practical skills and developing an understanding of the world. Delivered through a topic-based approach, this area of learning will encompass Science, Sense of Place (Geography) Sense of Time (History) and the use of technology for access and communication.

Perhaps the reason for teaching *The World About Me* is best explained through the desire to extend learners’ understanding of learning beyond that which is immediately apparent. When asked for example, where chips come from, it is perfectly feasible that most learners with SLD would reply, assuming that they are able to reply at all – from MacDonald’s; or where milk comes from – the fridge; or where water comes from – the tap. The principles we are concerned with might therefore be regarded as presenting a holistic understanding of everyday events, activities and experiences and about making the connections between these events, activities and experiences.

We hope that by covering this curriculum area students will develop:

* a love of the natural world and all its human and physical aspects
* a curiosity for the natural world as well as a sense of care for the planet and its inhabitants
* an understanding of where they are in the world, and what is around them
* a connection between themselves and their immediate environment

**How is the My World and Me curriculum delivered? (Implementation)**

**“The desire to extend learners’ understanding of learning beyond that which is immediately apparent”**

**(EQUALS, 2016; The World About Me)**

This curriculum area will be taught via the use of a topic, which are revised and extended over a half term.  Topics will be relevant to students and engaging.  Multi-sensory approaches will be used, to develop the holistic approach used in this area.

Students will learn best if the learning begins with a concrete, hands on experience, rather than using secondary means of explanation.  Therefore all topics will be taught with foundations of actual experiences, built on to extend understanding and comprehension.  Opportunities to visit different places and environments will be encouraged.

We will use a variety of approaches and strategies to support our students such as:

* Intensive Interaction
* Educational visits
* Interpretation of body language, gesture, facial expressions and vocalisations
* Drama and role play
* Music and songs
* Objects of reference
* Multi-sensory approaches
* Games
* Reading, embedding My World and Me
* Stories and multimedia
* Hands on resources
* Symbols and pictures
* Outdoor learning
* Play
* Signing
* Use of ICT

Topics covered will include:

* Change
* Food
* Life cycle of plants and animals
* People
* Recycling
* The weather
* The seasons
* Digital photography
* The seasons
* Festivals
* Water

**What difference is the My World and Me curriculum making to students? (Impact)**

* All students will follow personalised targets
* All students will be engaged in learning through developing positive relationships with staff and feeling safe in their learning environment
* All students will be stimulated by the curriculum to develop their own individual skills and abilities
* All students will be supported to be as independent as possible in all they do
* All students will be well prepared for their next step of learning and education