



**Keyan** previously visited bibic for a developmental assessment in 2019. A particular test was undertaken to explore visual perception skills which identified Keyan falling within the profound to low average range for a variety of visual processing areas. Therefore, an additional service was recommended to further establish his difficulties and how best to support him to reach his full potential. Keyan revisited the center for an Irlen assessment in September 2020.

Irlen Syndrome is a visual processing disorder that can affect children and adults of all ages. It is a difficulty with the brain's ability to accurately process visual information which can have a substantial and long-term negative effect on an individual's ability to carry out normal daily

activities, especially those associated with education, such as reading, attention span, energy levels, motivation, handwriting and gross motor activities.

At the time of assessment, it was reported Keyan avoids reading and writing tasks and the current levels he is working at are below his chronological age. Reading causes him to become tense, tire easily and results in lines being missed. Keyan will blink and rub his eyes a lot as well as move the page closer to him whilst reading. Subsequently these challenges which Keyan has to face has ruined the enjoyment reading can bring. The assessment process found that an Aqua overlay made a considerable difference, from the first initial use Keyan's pace of reading was more fluent, and he sounded out unfamiliar words which had previously been reluctant to do. He appeared happier and confident whilst reading, his body language was relaxed, and displayed a reduced level of fear. When asked if his chosen overlay helped and why, Keyan reported it's "easier to see the words".

I am elated to share that a month on from Kenyan's Irlen assessment he picked up a book at school and read for the first time in a year. Additionally, six months on his reading ability has increased by a year and a half. His confidence is rising, and it is amazing to know first-hand how, what is essentially, a coloured piece of plastic has made an immense difference to Keyan, he no longer has to struggle instead he is able to reach his full potential.