

“Being an effective school and becoming dyslexia friendly seem to be two sides of the same coin”

Neil Mackay 2001

What is DFS?

Dyslexia Friendly Schools is an East Ayrshire initiative which aims to:

- Develop a whole school awareness of what Dyslexia is
- Promote the positive ethos of Dyslexia as a learning difference
- Create dyslexia friendly environment and implement alternative classroom approaches which will benefit **all** pupils
- Respond immediately when pupils are struggling rather than wait for a “label”
- Have high expectations of all pupils
- Adopt flexible approaches

Dyslexia Friendly Schools good practice is in fact good practice for all. Research suggests that 30% of pupils at risk of literacy failure can be reduced to 3% with effective DFS classroom practice.

What does becoming a Dyslexia Friendly School involve?

Since 2013, nearly every school within East Ayrshire has begun their journey towards becoming a Dyslexia Friendly School. This is a three step process (Bronze, Silver and Gold) and initially involves:

- Training and awareness raising for staff/pupils and parent/carers
- Identifying and building upon current good practice
- Staff awareness raising of how to identify and support literacy difficulties
- Partnership working with pupils/parents

What could this look like?

- Pupil groups working together with school staff to research what Dyslexia is and the range of strategies and resources for classroom and whole school use
- Pupils openly discussing Dyslexia
- Dyslexia Friendly School notice board
- Dyslexia Friendly School assemblies/ workshops
- A written dyslexia policy
- Clear guidelines on marking and homework
- Parents kept informed through school newsletters and website

Pupil views on what works for them:



Resources are labelled in different

Encourage me to ask my friends

Be patient when I make mistakes and help me with a

Think about alternatives to copying from the board.

Only correct the spelling words I have been taught.

Keep instructions short and repeat them for me.

Show me as well as tell me, use pictures and materials.

Let me show what I have learned through: mindmaps, bullet points, diagrams instead of a long story.



As at the start of session 2016/17 we now have ninety eight percent of East Ayrshire schools working towards Dyslexia Friendly status with twenty two Primary Schools, two specialist provisions and one Secondary School having achieved at least their Bronze Award.

East Ayrshire is well down the road to establishing our Authority as a Dyslexia Friendly Authority where:

- every school is a Dyslexia Friendly School;
- every class is a Dyslexia Friendly Class and
- every teacher a Dyslexia Friendly Teacher.

For further information please contact:

Catherine Rodger
Manager
East Ayrshire Support Team
Crosshouse Campus
Playingfield Road
Crosshouse
KA2 0JJ
Tel: 01563 554974
Email: catherine.rodger@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

Debbie McCormack
Principal Teacher
East Ayrshire Support Team
Altonhill Campus
Auchencar Drive
Kilmarnock
KA3 1QD
Tel: 01563 572715
Email: debbie.mccormack@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

EAST AYRSHIRE SUPPORT TEAM

Dyslexia Friendly Schools



**Information for
Parents/Carers**