

Identification of dyslexia in schools

Children,
Parents &
Teachers

Information for parents

In general, the identification of dyslexia for school pupils is not a one-off test. It should be a holistic and collaborative process which takes place over a period of time, drawing on a range of observational and assessment methods and it should support the pupil's next steps for learning.

A process called **Staged Intervention** will normally be put into place when a concern has been raised about the pupil. This will:

- Identify the difficulties/needs - what is happening and why.
- Make some small adaptations within the curriculum - such as personalising the pupil's learning, breaking down learning tasks and using assistive technology.
- Record and review how the pupil progresses over a period of time.
- Decide what else, if anything, needs to be done.

Staged intervention should involve the pupil, parents/carers, class teacher and learning support staff. Parents or pupils may be unaware of unobtrusive support that is put into place in the classroom. Good communication between the school and parents is crucial and will deliver the best outcomes for the pupil. [Watch a short film about the importance of this here.](#)

Identification of dyslexia will typically look at reading, writing, spelling, vocabulary, verbal ability, reasoning and short-term working memory. This should help identify the pupil's strengths, development needs and what kind of support they might benefit from.

The **Addressing Dyslexia Toolkit** has a helpful description of **staged intervention** and **Pathway Identification process** which explain the steps that are normally taken to identify the needs of a pupil who may be dyslexic.

www.addressingdyslexia.org

Important – the identification and support for dyslexia varies across local authorities. This leaflet is designed to give an overview of the process. Councils will have a policy about how they support pupils with dyslexia which should be available online or on request.

Who identifies and supports dyslexia in schools?

- Class Teacher, who will refer to Support for Learning.
- Support for Learning will usually carry out screenings and possibly a more in-depth assessment. Staged Intervention, including support, will be put in place in conjunction with the Class Teacher and in liaison with parents/carers.
- An Educational Psychologist or other professionals may also be involved to offer advice and intervention to young people, parents, schools, the Education Service and any other partners in the assessment, identification and planning for pupils with dyslexia.

www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk

