

Appendix to SEND Policy – Statement relating to dyslexia

Introduction

We recognise that there are many well-known, successful and accomplished people who have experienced difficulties with reading and writing or have been identified as being dyslexic. We are committed to ensuring that children identified as having dyslexic tendencies make the very best progress they possibly can in reading, writing and maths. We identify and remove barriers to their learning by adapting our teaching and resources, and recognising children's learning preferences. We recognise children's strengths, interests and talents as well as identifying areas in which they may need support.

We have adopted the Rose (2009) definition of dyslexia with an additional paragraph from the British Dyslexia Association:

- 'Dyslexia is a learning difficulty that primarily affects the skills involved in accurate and fluent word reading and spelling.
- Characteristic features of dyslexia are difficulties in phonological awareness, verbal memory and verbal processing speed.
- Dyslexia occurs across the range of intellectual abilities.
- It is best thought of as a continuum, not a distinct category, and there are no clear cut off points.
- Co-occurring difficulties may be seen in aspects of language, motor co-ordination, mental calculation, concentration and personal organisation, but these are not by themselves markers of dyslexia.
- A good indication of the severity and persistence of dyslexic difficulties can be gained by examining how the individual responds or has responded to well founded intervention.'
- 'In addition to these characteristics, the BDA acknowledges the visual and auditory processing difficulties that some individuals with dyslexia can experience, and points out that dyslexic readers can show a combination of abilities and difficulties that affect the learning process. Some also have strengths in other areas, such as design, problem solving, creative skills, interactive skills and oral skills.'

Identification and Assessments

We have a 'graduated approach' to the identification and assessment of all children with special educational needs, including dyslexia.

As a school, we do not assess whether a child has dyslexia but we recognise dyslexic tendencies. Some parents may decide to seek identification of dyslexia through an outside agency.

We intervene quickly to support children experiencing difficulties in literacy while we gather assessment information, including test scores, teacher assessment and observations, and the views of parents and of the child. The purpose of this assessment process is to identify strengths and weaknesses, to consider that the child might have dyslexic tendencies, to inform teachers' planning for the child in the classroom and to help us determine whether the child needs additional support. We recognise that dyslexic tendencies can also affect maths, particularly aspects of number and mental calculation.

We act to support all children experiencing literacy difficulties whether or not it has been recognised that they have dyslexic tendencies.

Support for children with dyslexic tendencies

We use the 'Waves' model, providing support according to the child's level of need.

Wave One: high quality classroom teaching available to all children, with appropriate levels of challenge, differentiation and additional strategies for individual pupils.

Strategies include:

- Phonics teaching through Read Write Inc.
- Talk for Writing to extend vocabulary and to develop grammar, organisation and sequencing of writing.
- Encouraging exposure to print and reading for pleasure
- Whole school handwriting policy and scheme
- Visual literacy resources eg. Phonics or word lists appropriate to children's stage of learning
- Concrete and visual maths resources appropriate to children's stage or learning
- Merits, 'writer of the week', 'Mathematician of the week' to recognise achievement and develop self-esteem
- Recognition of a range of talents in 'Good Book' assemblies

Additional strategies for individual pupils may include:

- Increasing word recognition through 'over-learning' of words for reading
- 'Over-learning' of spellings
- Computer programmes to support word recognition, spelling and reading comprehension
- Use of technology to occasionally provide alternative means of recording
- Use of coloured overlays for reading
- Use of coloured backgrounds to interactive whiteboards
- Additional time to process information

WaveTwo:

Additional literacy support eg. Read Write Inc. groups and 1-1 lessons.

Additional maths groups

Wave Three:

Additional support from intervention teachers in literacy and maths

For further information please contact Inclusion Leader/SENCo Mrs Angeli