

# Dyslexia Friendly Schools



## Section 2

### Identifying Children:

#### D) Access Arrangements

## KS2 Access Arrangements.

Formal identification of dyslexia is also unnecessary for special consideration during KS2 examinations. Again, *only the identification of need is required to request additional time.*

However, the school does need to ask permission for additional time and provide evidence to substantiate it (lack of such or inappropriate use of access arrangements may invalidate the pupil's results).

Permission for additional time is obtained from the Local Authority's "superuser".

## Requesting Additional Time.

A suitable request will provide the following evidence:

- **History of need** and identification of difficulties.
- **History of provision** or *normal way of working*: i.e. how the need is normally supported in school, perhaps by 1:1 support sessions, use of TA etc.
- **Assessment scores**: 3 or more 'below average' assessment scores in: reading accuracy, reading speed, writing speed or speed of information processing\*.

\*The Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency produce a list of suitable tests for assessing reading, writing speed and processing speed. See:

[http://testsandexams.qcda.gov.uk/libraryAssets/media/Assessing\\_pupils\\_FINAL\\_2008\\_to\\_2009.pdf](http://testsandexams.qcda.gov.uk/libraryAssets/media/Assessing_pupils_FINAL_2008_to_2009.pdf)

Permission is also needed for **early opening** of KS2 assessment materials, in order to modify papers in some way. Early opening means more than one hour before test time.

When  
Permission is not  
Required.

Permission for additional time is **not** required:

- For pupils with statements of SEN - a statement typically contains all of the above evidence, requiring no further validation.
- In the spelling test - this test is not strictly timed and pupils may have all the time they require.

KS4 Access  
Arrangements.

The Joint Council for Qualifications governs access arrangements for GCSE examinations. They operate an online application process at:

[www.jcq.org.uk](http://www.jcq.org.uk)

There are strict timetables but arrangements, if granted, will last 26 months. This means applications for GCSE pupils can be made at the beginning of year 10 (or end of year 9).

A formal identification of dyslexia is still **not** required, but evidence of physical, sensory or learning disability and how it has been normally supported should be provided. An appropriately qualified professional compiles this evidence using the JCQ's "Form 8".

Although applications for GCSE are online, the form 8 can be used to record information for JCQ inspection purposes. It is available at:

[www.jcq.org.uk/exams\\_office/forms](http://www.jcq.org.uk/exams_office/forms)

## Evidence Required.

The form 8 outlines evidence in areas very similar to those at KS2:

- **History of the candidate's needs.**
- **History of Provision** or *normal way of working*; how the centre has normally provided for them.
- **Assessment scores** for four principal skills: reading accuracy, reading speed and comprehension, writing skills and writing expression.

## Assessments and Scores.

An appropriately qualified professional must perform assessments for public examinations within 26 months of the exam date.

Assessments carried out by another teacher cannot be 'signed off' by an Educational Psychologist or Specialist Teacher.

Assessments must be recognised, standardised and fit for purpose. Suggested test materials for each skill follow (and further details are given in the section on "Assessment Resources").

### 1. Reading accuracy (for single word reading)

WRAT 4	Wide Range Achievement Test 4
WIAT-II-UK-T	Wechsler Individual Achievement Test

### 2. Reading speed and comprehension

WIAT-II-UK-T	Wechsler Individual Achievement Test
DRA	Diagnostic Reading Assessment

### 3. Writing skills

- Spelling accuracy

WRAT 4      Wide Range Achievement Test 4

- Do spelling and handwriting render free writing illegible?  
Qualitative (Yes/No)
- Is free writing incomprehensible?  
Qualitative (Yes/No)

### 4. Writing Expression

- Writing speed

Allcock assessment of handwriting speed

- Percentage of indecipherable words
- Quality of language  
Qualitative (Remarks)

The SpLD Assessment Standards Committee (SASC) publishes a list of recommended assessments for SpLD. Although principally for use when assessing HE and FE pupils, it is equally valid for GCSE pupils. Called “Test Guidelines” it can be accessed at:

<http://www.sasc.org.uk/STEC.html>

Finally, a list of common assessments for differing purposes can also be found in these Dyslexia Friendly Guidelines: see Section 2, part E entitled “Using Assessments”.