



Nythe Primary and Nursery School

Nythe Primary School are officially a Dyslexia Friendly School. We were awarded this status in December 2020 by the Swindon Dyslexia Service. To obtain this award, we had to submit a vast range of evidence, conduct a variety of learning walks and lesson observations, and view samples of pupils' work along with the views of pupils and parents being taken into account.



A variety of interventions are delivered by our experienced and skilled Teaching Assistants in different areas of the curriculum, these include:

- Nessy (computer software with phonics and reading games)
- Clicker 6 (computer software that supports children recording their class work)
- Phonics Bug (an interactive educational website that supports phonics)
- Precision Teaching (a strategy to support children with reading and writing high frequency words and spellings)
- Toe-by-toe (a carefully designed book that supports children with reading)
- Plus 1 & The Power of 2 (a carefully designed book to support children with the basics and fundamentals of maths)
- Fine Motor Skills
- Memory Games

In class, teachers use a variety of strategies and approaches that support those children with require additional support, these include:

- Highlighting and 'boxing' lines helps children keep their writing on the line and keep spaces between their work.
- Use of practical resources such as numberlines, cubes and laptops.
- Giving clear and precise instructions.

- Group and teacher guided work
- Word banks, spellings, phonics mats and key vocabulary is easily accessible.
- Support when organising and presenting work (e.g - specially designed worksheets)
- Use of pastel colours, clear and Dyslexia friendly text when using the interactive whiteboard.
- Pencil grips and reading overlays.

As parents/carers, it is important that you continue to support your child extending their knowledge at home; you could do this in a variety of ways:

- Reading books together
- Practise High Frequency and Common Exception words (reading and writing) - this doesn't have to be with pen and paper; it could be with glitter, shaving foam and paint.
- Use flashcards and play matching games
- Use magnetic letters
- Use mnemonics
- Make sure your child is sitting comfortably when they write, with their feet firmly on the floor. If it's helpful, try using a slanted writing surface
- Help your child strengthen the muscles in their hand by using play dough or performing hand exercises
- Go over homework instructions together to make sure they understand what they are supposed to do.
- Create visual reminders

Some signs that a child may have Dyslexia or may need more support:

- Have trouble learning simple rhymes
- Be speech delayed
- Have a hard time following directions
- Have difficulty with short words; repeat or leave out words like and, the, but
- Have trouble differentiating left from right
- Have significant difficulty learning to read, including trouble sounding out new words and counting the number of syllables in words

- Continue to reverse letters and numbers when reading (read bear as dees, for example) after most kids have stopped doing that, around the age of 8
- Struggle with taking notes and copying down words from the board
- Have difficulty rhyming, associating sounds with letters, and sequencing and ordering sounds
- Have trouble correctly spelling even familiar words; they will often spell them phonetically (cmpt instead of camped)
- Lack fluency in reading, continuing to read slowly when other children are speeding ahead
- Avoid reading out loud in class
- Show signs of fatigue from reading with great effort

It is important to take the age of the child into account; some children may take slightly longer than others to develop some of these skills. For instance, just because a child may take slightly longer to read a sentence and will need to use their phonics knowledge more than another child - this does not necessarily mean that they are Dyslexic.

If you are concerned about your child's progress, it is important that you arrange a meeting with your child's teacher; they may be able to support you with strategies. If your child's teacher has concerns, they will pass this onto the school SENCO to be investigated.

Please be aware that as a school, we cannot diagnose Dyslexia. We are able to give advice and support with strategies and information. A qualified specialist Dyslexia teacher will conduct this. The assessment itself may involve observing your child in their learning environment, talking with key adults involved with your child's learning, and asking your child to take part in a series of tests.

<https://childmind.org/guide/parents-guide-to-dyslexia/>

<https://www.nessy.com/uk/parents/dyslexia-information/>

<https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/advice/children>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/dyslexia/diagnosis/>

<http://www.parentchampions.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/UnderstandingDyslexia.pdf>