

National Updates - Autumn 2025

New Definitions

As of **2025**, the **definitions** of **dyslexia** and **Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD) in maths and dyscalculia** have been updated to reflect the latest research and understanding. These revisions aim to provide clearer guidance for assessment, identification and support. From July, you'll see these updated definitions reflected in our reports and on our website.

New Report Formats

The *SpLD Assessment Standards Committee (SASC)* has introduced updated formats for diagnostic assessment reports, effective from **4th June 2025**. These changes aim to align reporting with the latest definitions and best practices, ensuring greater clarity and consistency in assessment outcomes.

Visual Difficulties

In accordance with SASC guidance, specialist teachers must conduct screening for visual difficulties prior to an assessment. This will be in the form of a **Visual Difficulties Questionnaire**. Where concerns are identified, a referral for further professional assessment, such as by an optometrist, should be made. This step ensures that any visual factors impacting learning are identified and managed prior to us completing the full diagnostic assessment.

In accordance with SASC protocol:

- Visual difficulties are not a symptom of dyslexia but can co-occur. Recognition of visual symptoms is the starting point for the identification of visual difficulties that may require treatment.
- If the pupil has NOT had a sight test by an optometrist within the last two years, then a sight test is necessary before assessment.
- If YES is answered to any question on the Visual Difficulties Questionnaire, the referral to an optometrist for further assessment is required, regardless of whether there is any recent history of a sight test.
- The assessment of visual difficulties by a specialist teacher is limited to the recording of reported symptoms and signs. There will be no attempt to suggest a diagnosis or propose a treatment.
- A dyslexia or dyscalculia diagnostic decision will NOT BE CONFIRMED if the specialist teacher feels that unresolved visual difficulties are a contributing factor.
- If glasses have been prescribed, they must be worn on the assessment day.

Don't Forget — We're Here to Support You

We offer a range of services to help you support pupils, including:

- Classroom or SENCo support
- Observations and Assessments, including Exam Access Arrangements (EAA)
- Staff training
- Practical advice on creating a SpLD-friendly learning environment

Get in touch to find out how we can tailor our support to your school's needs.