

## About Dyslexia Scotland

This paper gives an outline of how Dyslexia Scotland aims to help children and adults with dyslexia reach their full potential.

### **Dyslexia Scotland doesn't just work with parents and people with dyslexia**

As well as working with teachers, employers and other professionals, Dyslexia Scotland has worked with a diverse range of organisations such as unions, sporting organisations, legal firms, arts organisations, employability organisations and colleges/universities. In short, we will work with anyone or any organisation in order to help more people with dyslexia reach their potential, where we have the capacity to do this.

Our [Helpline](#), which can be contacted by phone or email, is open to anyone with a question about dyslexia.

### **Dyslexia Scotland's Helpline is more than just a phone line**

As well as providing practical advice, our specially trained Helpline Advisers understand that dyslexia can be upsetting and that sometimes people just need someone to speak to.

For people who find it difficult to contact our Helpline during work hours, you can email [helpline@dyslexiascotland.org.uk](mailto:helpline@dyslexiascotland.org.uk) and request an 'out of hours' call.

### **Dyslexia Scotland is more than just a campaign body**

As well as campaigning, Dyslexia Scotland provides practical help, information and training. Whether it's a teacher who wants to find out more about dyslexia, someone who is looking for a tutor for their son or daughter or an organisation looking for advice about supporting staff with dyslexia, we can help. We hold stalls at events across Scotland to raise awareness and provide information to more people.

Dyslexia Scotland is a [membership organisation](#). Each edition of our quarterly members' magazine is themed and includes something for adults, children and young people, parents and professionals.

### **Dyslexia Scotland encourages parents and schools to work well together**

We believe that the best outcome for a child will be achieved by a positive, open relationship between parents and teachers. We recognise that this is not always easy but we try to encourage good communication between parents and schools. Our Helpline advisers highlight the importance of speaking and listening to teachers in the first instance. If there is a breakdown in relations, Dyslexia Scotland is not able to take on individual cases but we are able to provide information about relevant legislation and links to mediation organisations such as Enquire.

Our links with parents mean that we can share some of their concerns and difficulties with teachers at events like our annual Education Conference.

### **Dyslexia Scotland provides balanced information and advice about the identification process in mainstream and private schools as well as about independent assessment**

**The most common enquiry to our Helpline is about assessment.** When parents ask about how a child is identified with dyslexia, our Helpline advisers talk enquirers through the staged intervention process and encourage parents to speak and work closely with school in the first instance. We help adults to think about their reasons for having an assessment and to consider speaking to their employer.

The online [Addressing Dyslexia Toolkit](#) is a free resource about identifying and supporting dyslexia. The toolkit contains some useful 'Frequently Asked Questions' around assessment.

There is a great deal of [information about assessment](#) on our website and we have a series of [leaflets](#), including ones on assessment for children and adults. For people who do want a private assessment, we hold a list of independent qualified assessors.

## **Dyslexia Scotland provides services for adults as well as for children and parents**

We understand that adults with dyslexia often need support whether it's around studying, employment or building confidence. Our Adult Networks provide the chance for adults with dyslexia to meet and learn new skills. Our branches, membership, Helpline and activities during Dyslexia Awareness Week include adult issues. We also offer assessment, employment and tutoring services for adults.

## **Dyslexia Scotland's branches are more than just support groups for parents**

Our [branches](#) cover a diverse range of topics at their meetings and people who come can be children or adults with dyslexia, parents, teachers and professionals working with people with dyslexia.

Our branches welcome anyone who wants to know more about dyslexia.

## **Dyslexia Scotland does not have the power to make all schools and workplaces dyslexia friendly, but we work in partnership with others to help make this happen**

Dyslexia Scotland works across the whole of Scotland with a small staff team and a network of volunteers. We aim to work with a range of partners to raise awareness of dyslexia but our capacity and remit is limited at times. Our [strategic plan](#) for 2015 – 2018 is the result of a series of public consultations and directs us as to what our priorities should be. As well as working to these priorities, we aim to be ready to respond as the need arises.

Examples of current or recent partnership work include:

- Active representative on the Scottish Government's working group to help take forward recommendations from [Making Sense: Education for Children and Young People with Dyslexia in Scotland](#)
- Key partner in the design, development and maintenance of the online Addressing Dyslexia Toolkit

- Member of the National Farmers Union for Scotland's '[Farming with Dyslexia](#)' campaign and working group
- Training and awareness raising with organisations such as the Scottish Trades Union Congress, Macroberts Solicitors, the Scottish Prison Service, Job Centre Plus and the National Health Service.

### **Dyslexia Scotland welcomes the involvement of anyone with an interest in dyslexia**

Whether people are interested in volunteering at one of our branches or helping out with different events throughout the year, we are hugely grateful for the support of volunteers. Anyone can [volunteer with us](#), not just people who have a connection to or an understanding of dyslexia.

### **Dyslexia Scotland does not just focus on the barriers presented by dyslexia**

Whilst we understand that dyslexia can cause a variety of problems and difficulties in peoples' lives, we believe that it is important to highlight the many skills of people with dyslexia and some of the positives associated with it. We believe that raising awareness of dyslexia among those not affected is an important part of our role and we do this whenever possible and at events such as Dyslexia Awareness Week, our Education Conference, branch events, social media and more.

- 📞 Contact our Helpline on 0344 800 8484 or [helpline@dyslexiascotland.org.uk](mailto:helpline@dyslexiascotland.org.uk)  
(Monday – Thursday 10am – 4.30pm, Friday 10am – 4pm)