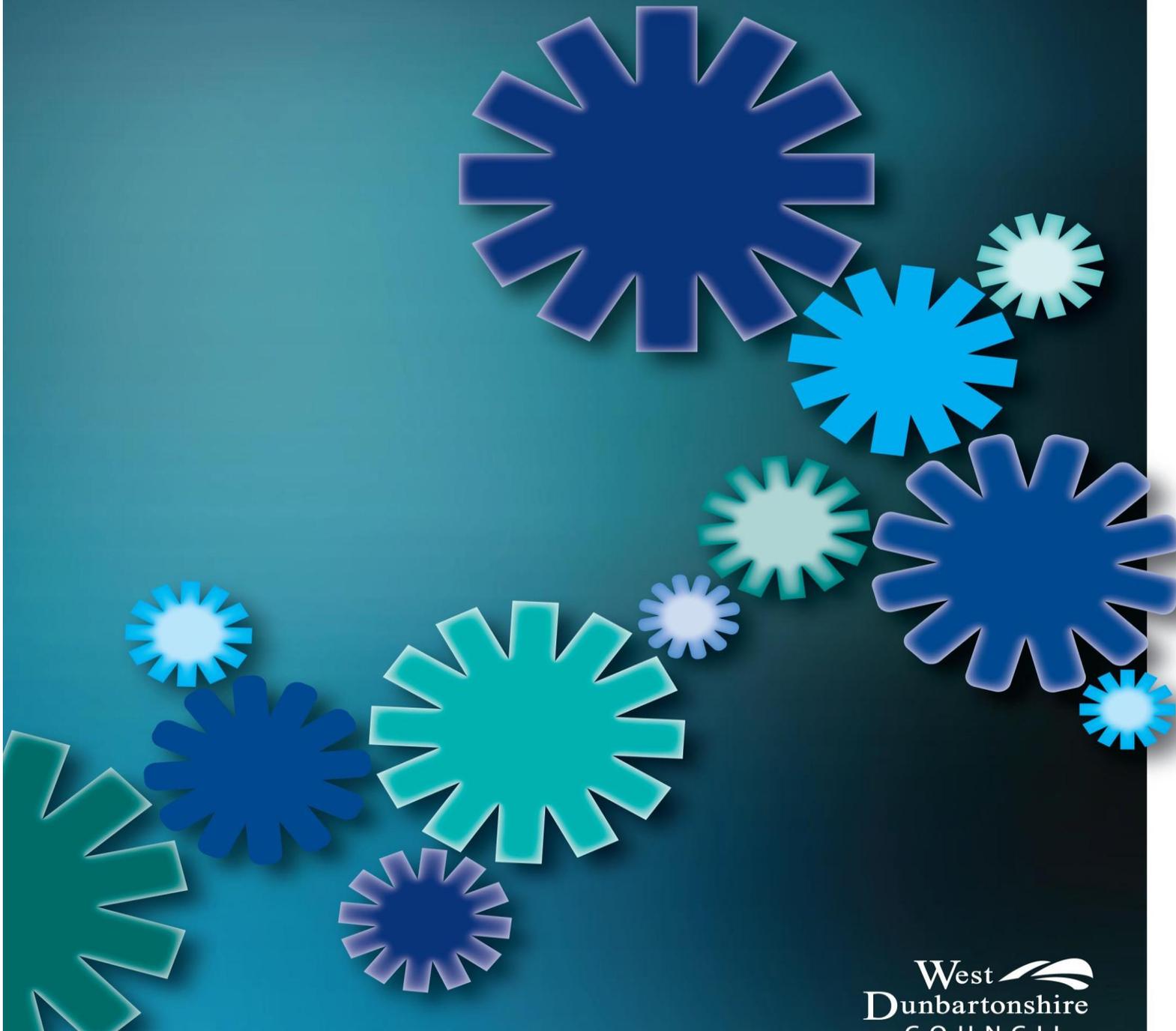


## EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

# A guide to: Dyslexia Information for Parents and Carers

Amended December 2015





**A guide to:  
Dyslexia  
Information for Parents and Carers**

Information for Parents and Carers

**What is Dyslexia?**

Dyslexia is a severe and persistent difficulty in learning to read fluently and/or to spell words which continues despite being given appropriate opportunities for learning.

Children with dyslexia may show a range of difficulties. However each child is different and has a unique profile or strengths and weaknesses. Many children with dyslexia have problems with short-term memory and find making sense of sounds difficult. Dyslexic children can also struggle with sequencing, number skills, motor co-ordination and organisation.

**What should I do if I think my child has dyslexia?**

Every school has experience in dealing with dyslexia and so the first thing you should do is to speak to your child's school.

If your child is in primary school you should first of all speak to the Head Teacher or the Pupil Support Co-ordinator. If your child is in secondary school you should speak to the Support for Learning department.

## **What can you expect the school to do?**

Each school in West Dunbartonshire follows a staged intervention model. This means that the class teacher will be the first person to notice and support your child if they have any difficulties doing their work. Class teachers will often try alternative strategies to help children who are not making the expected progress. Many children will make good progress through these alternative strategies.

When a teacher feels that a child needs more support there are a variety of options within each school. These may include the involvement of a support teacher, the central support resource service or sometimes the educational psychologist.

## **Will my child be assessed?**

As part of the staged intervention process schools gather a lot of assessment information about your child. Much of this information is gathered from the work your child does in class. Sometimes additional tests are administered to investigate areas of concern in more detail. Any investigation will always involve exploring your child's strengths as well as your child's weaknesses. You will always be part of any assessment undertaken to look at your child's learning.

If your child's difficulty learning to read, write and spell is severe compared to other children the same age and is consistent and persists over time, then all the information gathered about your child's learning will be analysed by the school staff working with your child and a view taken as to whether this fits the profile of dyslexia. All support will be managed through the staged intervention process and will depend on the severity of your child's difficulties.



## What can parents / carers do to help?

- Ensure your child attends school regularly
- Check you child's bag every night for homework / letters.
- Praise your child for things they can do well.
- Try to be calm and encouraging.
- Read aloud to your child as much as you can.
- Talk to your child about difficulties / concerns.
- Work closely with your child's school to find the best way forward.

## **Further information can be obtained from**

Enquire

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

Scottish Government

[www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education)

Education Scotland

[www.educationscotland.gov.uk/supportinglearners/additional-supportneeds/index.asp](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/supportinglearners/additional-supportneeds/index.asp)

West Dunbartonshire Council

<http://www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/education-and-learning/additional-support-needs>

Additional Support Needs Tribunal for Scotland (ASNTS)

[www.asntscotland.gov.uk](http://www.asntscotland.gov.uk)

Govan Law Centre

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

National Dyslexic Toolkit

[www.addressingdyslexia.org](http://www.addressingdyslexia.org)

## **Leaflets in this series**

A guide to...

- Accessing Specialist Provision in West Dunbartonshire Council
- Additional Support Needs Legislation
- Additional Support Needs in West Dunbartonshire Council
- Dyslexia
- Getting Help and Resolving Disagreements:
  - Mediation;
  - Dispute Resolution;
  - Additional Support Needs Tribunal for Scotland (ASNTS)
- Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)
- Going to Meetings to Discuss Your Child
- Staged Intervention
- The Central Support Service
- The Co-ordinated Support Plan (CSP)
- The Pre-school Assessment Team (PreScAT)

**For more information contact:  
Additional Support Needs enquiries:**

Chris Smith, Education Manager – Children’s Services (01389 737374)  
Anne Marie MacDonald, Central Support Co-ordinator (0141 562 2492)  
Pat Montgomery, Quality Improvement Officer (01389 737443)

**Other formats**

This document can be provided in large print, Braille, audio cassette, and can be translated into different languages.

Please contact:

Corporate Communications, Council Offices, Garshake Road,  
Dumbarton, G82 3PU

本文件也可應要求，製作成其他語文或特大字體版本，也可製作成錄音帶。  
अनुरोध पर यह दस्तावेज़ अन्य भाषाओं में, बड़े अक्षरों की छपाई और सुनने वाले माध्यम पर भी उपलब्ध है

ਇਹ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਅਤੇ ਆਡੀਓ ਟੇਪ 'ਤੇ ਰਿਕਾਰਡ ਹੋਇਆ ਵੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੇ ਲਿਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।  
درخواست پر یہ دستاویز دیگر زبانوں میں، بڑے حروف کی چھپائی اور سننے والے ذرائع پر بھی میسر ہے۔