

## Pupil views on what works for them:

Resources are labelled in different colours.

Encourage me to ask my friends for help.

Be patient when I make mistakes and help me with a smile.

Think about alternatives to copying from the board.

Only correct the spelling words I have been taught.

Keep instructions short and repeat them for me.



Let me show what I have learned through: mindmaps, bullet points, diagrams instead of a long story.

Show me as well as tell me, use pictures and materials.



In 2014/15 eleven Primary Schools, one specialist provision and one Secondary Support for Learning Department received their Bronze Award and we hope there will be many more in 2015/16.

East Ayrshire is well down the road to establishing our Authority as a Dyslexia Friendly Authority where

- every school is a Dyslexia Friendly School;
- every class is a Dyslexia Friendly Class and
- every teacher a Dyslexia Friendly Teacher.



# Dyslexia Friendly Schools

## Information for Parents/Carers

*“Being an effective school and becoming dyslexia friendly seem to be two sides of the same coin”*

*Neil Mackay 2001*

## What is DFS?

Dyslexia Friendly Schools is an East Ayrshire initiative which aims to:

- Develop a whole school awareness of what Dyslexia is
- Promote the positive ethos of Dyslexia as a learning difference
- Create dyslexia friendly environment and implement alternative classroom approaches which will benefit **all** pupils
- Respond immediately when pupils are struggling rather than wait for a “label”
- Have high expectations of all pupils
- Adopt flexible approaches

***Dyslexia Friendly Schools good practice is in fact good practice for all. Research suggests that 30% of pupils at risk of literacy failure can be reduced to 3% with effective DFS classroom practice.***

## What does becoming a Dyslexia Friendly School involve?

Since 2013, nearly every school within East Ayrshire has begun their journey towards becoming a Dyslexia Friendly School. This is a three step process (Bronze, Silver and Gold) and initially involves

- Training and awareness raising for staff/ pupils and parent/carers
- Identifying and building upon current good practice
- Staff awareness raising of how to identify and support literacy difficulties
- Partnership working with pupils/parents

## What could this look like?

- Pupil groups working together with school staff to research what Dyslexia is and the range of strategies and resources for classroom and whole school use
- Pupils openly discussing Dyslexia
- Dyslexia Friendly School notice board
- Dyslexia Friendly School assemblies/ workshops
- A written dyslexia policy
- Clear guidelines on marking and homework
- Parents kept informed through school newsletters and website