**Dyslexia Tests UK - useful information**

Each dyslexic individual may have a different cognitive profile, meaning they need a slightly different approach to teaching and learning. This is why a full diagnostic report is helpful, to identify the barriers to learning and signpost the best way forward.

**Working Memory**

Many dyslexic individuals also have poor working memory. This is because phonological working memory is part of the wider phonological system, and the processing difference that affects this system also impacts on working memory.

It used to be thought that working memory developed along a fixed trajectory, but we now know that this can be improved by using intensive interventions, such as NEW COGMED working memory training.

NEW COGMED increases working memory capacity in the majority of users, which strengthens the individual’s cognitive platform.

A working memory assessment is available for £250.

**New Cogmed**

Cogmed is an online programme which improves phonological and visual-spatial working memory through a series of online tasks, over a period of 5 + weeks.

Tasks are presented in a rotating schedule, and are adaptive, which means they get harder as the user improves. This continual testing to the limit is what brings about change.

Daily sessions vary in duration, from upwards of 20 minutes. The exact training schedule is agreed in advance between the user and the Cogmed Coach.

Dyslexia Tests UK provides NEW COGMED for a fee of £550. This includes an initial Zoom consultation and remote supervision, with parents acting as day to day coach.

**Assessments**

Fees start at £450 if conducted on site. Off-site assessments attract an additional fee.

Our highly qualified assessor holds a current Assessment Practising Certificate from the Dyslexia Guild. It is not necessary to hold an APC to conduct assessments, but it signifies than an assessor is up to date, agrees to abide by a code of conduct, and is following the latest SASC guidelines.

**Before the assessment**

You will be sent a Family Questionnaire, and with your permission, a Teacher Questionnaire will be sent to the class teacher and school SENDCo, to gather background information, find out what is happening at school, what has been tried, and what does or doesn’t seem to work.

You will also be asked to notify Dyslexia UK if your child has any health or other issues which may require a Health Care Plan for the session. You must provide two different contact telephone numbers and agree a plan of action in the event of any emergency arising during the assessment.

You will be asked to pay a £100 non-refundable deposit which will be deducted from the full fee, payable at the time of assessment.

**During the assessment**

The assessment is carried out at Dyslexia UK’s premises, unless otherwise arranged. On street parking is available, with restrictions between 11am – 12pm weekdays. Please park considerately when dropping off or collecting your child.

The assessment itself will take about three hours, so please send a drink and snack, as we do not provide refreshments due to current COVID restrictions, and potential allergies. On the topic of allergies, if your child has allergies to dogs or cats, please notify Dyslexia UK before you arrive, and discuss potential precautions, or it may be necessary to conduct the assessment off site.

The assessment comprises lots of short tasks of ability and attainment, presented in such a way as to minimise fatigue and maintain interest.

**After the assessment**

The assessor will not be able to provide verbal feedback on the day, because the tests need to be carefully scored, and the scores analysed. You may book a verbal feedback call later, and the written report will be forwarded to you within 10 working days.

A short term teaching plan with some suggested targets will also be forwarded, but this will not form part of the report. This is because the report will be valid for many years, but the short term targets will change frequently.

**Schools**

Mainstream schools follow the SEND Code of Practice (see legislation download), and must make their best efforts to meet children’s special educational needs. However, this may not include a full diagnostic assessment by a specialist assessor, and the assessment process may take a very long time. This is because schools follow a plan – do – review cycle, which means they make small changes and assess the impact before escalation.

Independent schools are not required to follow the SEND Code of Practice and may not provide specialist assessments or tuition within the termly fees. Every school will have its own policies and procedures, so you should check with them to find out what they are able to provide.