

THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY ASSESSMENT FOR ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS

GUIDANCE FOR SENCOS AND LEADERS

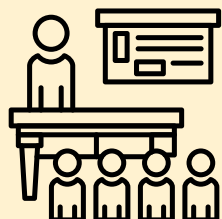
1



Ensures compliance and reduces risk

- **Awarding bodies (e.g. JCQ)** require that access arrangements reflect a student's normal way of working.
- Early implementation allows time to build **evidence portfolio** needed for approval (e.g. Form 8s, specialist assessments, teacher feedback).

2



Embeds Inclusive Practice

- Early arrangements signal commitment to **equity and inclusion**
- **Ensures the needs of students with SEND are recognised and supported consistently across lessons, interventions and assessments.**
- **Helps align access arrangements with the wider SEND support plan and EHCP outcomes**

3



Increases student confidence and reduces exam anxiety

- Students perform best when they know what support they can expect
- Early and consistent use builds **familiarity** and removes uncertainty around exams
- Particularly important for vulnerable learners, such as those with ASD, ADHD, or anxiety disorders.

4



Facilitates staff planning and training

- Gives time for **staff development** around using readers, scribes, rest breaks, and assistive technology
- Supports timetable and resource planning for exams, including rooming, invigilation, and access to equipment.

5



Improves whole-school outcomes

- Ensuring appropriate arrangements are in place can positively impact **progress and attainment data.**
- Promotes **high expectations** for SEND learners by removing barriers to success
- Reflects well in **Ofsted inspections** under *Quality of education and leadership and management* judgements.