



## Hardy Mill Primary School

### Dyslexia Information Leaflet

At Hardy Mill, we believe in supporting all our pupils to do their very best. Our vision is “To be the best that we can be,” and we strive to inspire our children to be motivated, resilient, and confident learners.

This leaflet has been created by the Dyslexia Awareness Quality Mark Working Party to help families of children who may be showing signs of dyslexia.

#### **What is Dyslexia?**

Dyslexia is a lifelong condition that makes it hard for people to read, write, and/or spell. It is not linked to a person's intelligence and affects individuals from all backgrounds. Some people may prefer to call it a Specific Learning Difference (SPLD), highlighting the unique ways that they think and learn. It affects individuals of all genders, ethnicities, and social groups, with its impact varying from mild to severe.

Early indicators may include slower acquisition of speech and language skills; however, dyslexia is typically first noticeable when a child begins to struggle with literacy skills. It is important to note that formal diagnosis is not required for support to be implemented at school. While dyslexia's most visible effects are seen in reading and writing, it can also affect information processing and working memory, influencing how much information can be retained and the speed of accessing and recalling information.

#### **What is Irlen Syndrome?**

Irlen Syndrome is a type of visual or perceptual processing disorder. Someone with a visual or perceptual processing disorder has difficulty making sense of visual information. This is different from problems involving sight or vision. Light sensitivity is very common with Irlen Syndrome. Irlen Syndrome is hereditary and tends to run in families, affecting males and females equally. Like Dyslexia, Irlen Syndrome is a spectrum disorder, falling on a continuum from slight to severe. Incidence studies suggest that 46% of those identified with reading problems, dyslexia, attention deficit disorder, or learning difficulties suffer from Irlen Syndrome as a co-occurring difficulty. Irlen Syndrome can affect many different areas, including:

- Academic and work performance
- Behaviour

- Attention
- Ability to sit still
- Concentration

### **How You Can Help at Home**

As a parent or carer for a child with a suspected or diagnosed Specific Learning Difficulty/Difference (SPLD), you want to provide the best possible support for them. Your child will be working hard because of the processing difficulties associated with their short-term memory, so your child may come home exhausted or frustrated. Be encouraging. If your child feels confident, then they will keep trying.

Here are some ways you can help:

1. Ensure routine health checks, like eyesight and hearing, are done regularly.
2. Keep in touch with your child's class teacher. You can find their email addresses on the school website to share any concerns or good news.
3. If you have ongoing concerns, please reach out to our Special Educational Needs Lead, Mrs Hamblet, by emailing [SENCO@hardymill.bolton.sch.uk](mailto:SENCO@hardymill.bolton.sch.uk)

### **Homework Tips**

1. Let your child relax for a while when they come home from school, as they may feel tired from trying hard all day.
2. Set clear routines for homework. Having a regular time and place free of clutter, can help your child concentrate better.
3. If your child finds a task too hard or time-consuming, talk to the teacher about it. You can work together to find a better way for your child to complete their work. The use and support of technology my support, e.g. speech to text type software or apps.
4. During exam times, encourage your child to start revising early and to use different methods, like mind maps or visual aids, to help them remember.

### **Support in school**

At Hardy Mill Primary School, we ensure that pupils with dyslexia are given a full and balanced curriculum. Teachers will plan for adaptations, use multi-sensory techniques and active learning to facilitate engagement and participation of pupils. Our support includes:

- Quality first teaching
- Adapted teaching for identified individuals
- Evidenced based interventions
- New learning is presented in multiple ways (multiple means of representation)
- Alternative ways of recording learning, when appropriate (multiple means of expression).

Most dyslexic children can be supported in school through our SEN Support provision. Hardy Mill will not seek a formal diagnosis but will support any parent wishing to seek a private diagnosis. For more information about this, speak to Mrs Hamblet (SENCO).

## Glossary of terms

Knowing some key terms can help you understand dyslexia and the support available:

- **Phonological Awareness:** This means being able to hear and identify sounds in words, which is important for reading and spelling. Changes in the sounds that make up words can lead to changes in their meaning. For example, a child with a good level of phonological awareness would understand that if you change the letter "p" in the word "pat" to "s", the word becomes "sat".
- **Verbal Memory:** This is the ability to remember information for a short time.
- **Short-term verbal memory (STVM):** This includes how much information one can keep in their mind at once and how long they can remember it.
- **Verbal processing:** This refers to how quickly someone can recall information verbally when they hear or see something. For example, quickly naming a series of known letters, pictures or numbers.
- **Co-occurring difficulties:** Dyslexia and many other learning difficulties do not always occur in isolation. It is quite common for an individual to have cooccurring conditions, such as Developmental Coordination Difficulties (DCD) or Dyscalculia.
- **Intervention:** A structured set of lessons designed to help a pupil reach specific learning goals over a certain period.
- **SPLD:** Specific Learning Difficulty/ Difference refers to a range of learning differences, such as Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Dyscalculia, and Dysgraphia.

## Useful Websites for more information

For more information and useful resources, check out the following websites:

- British Dyslexia Association
- Made by Dyslexia
- The Dyslexia – SpLD Trust
- Dyslexia UK – Supporting your dyslexic child at home: Practical Tips for Parents

## Supporting home learning apps and websites

For information about recommended apps and software, please check the resource tab on this website: [www.dyslexiauk.co.uk](http://www.dyslexiauk.co.uk)