



All Party
Parliamentary Group
on Dyslexia



Primary Assessment and specialist support concerns

Daniel Baynes
Policy and Research Executive

Daniel.baynes@driveryouthtrust.com
[@DriverTrust](https://twitter.com/DriverTrust)

Contents

Primary assessment:

- ▷ What is the problem?
- ▷ What is the government's view and further reform on the agenda.

Specialist provision:

- ▷ What do we know about provision?
- ▷ Rose 10 years on

- ▷ *How should the APPG act?*



All Party
Parliamentary Group
on Dyslexia



Primary Assessment

The Problem: Primary Assessment Levels Reform

- Drastic reform: National curriculum levels -> “expected standard”

KS2 expected standard in reading, writing & maths is 53%, SEND pupils reach the expected standard is 14% (*Department for Education, 2016*).

Impact

- SATs regime undermines the ability of our dyslexic pupils
- Stifling inclusion of spelling criteria
- Dyslexic children unable to demonstrate what they know

Government Response

- ESC Report (May 2017)

“The current approach to assessing writing should be reconsidered, and the focus on spelling disproportionately affects pupils with dyslexia”

- DfE Consultation Response (September 2017)
 - Recognises problems with spelling
 - Carries out equality impact assessment

Government's Response

Equality impact assessment

“We welcome the decision to conduct a full Equality Impact assessment on any changes to primary assessment. This ensures that changes to primary assessment comply with both the letter and the spirit of the law”. (Driver Youth Trust)

On The Horizon

- Timetables check
 - from 2019
- Reception baseline
 - from 2020
- Government does not consider these to affect dyslexic pupils – APPG to assess

What should the APPG do?

9

- Remind policy makers of disproportionate impact of reform on dyslexics
- Review future SATs testing for accessibility
- Review assessment measures from 2019



All Party
Parliamentary Group
on Dyslexia



Specialist Provision

Specialists – Rose Review, 10 years on

11

- Report recommendations
 - Ed Balls commitment = 10mil & 4000 teachers
 - 1 specialist teacher for *“each local group of schools”*
- 2012: Gov confirms 3,200 teachers trained



**Identifying and Teaching Children
and Young People with Dyslexia
and Literacy Difficulties**

An independent report from Sir Jim Rose to the
Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families
June 2009

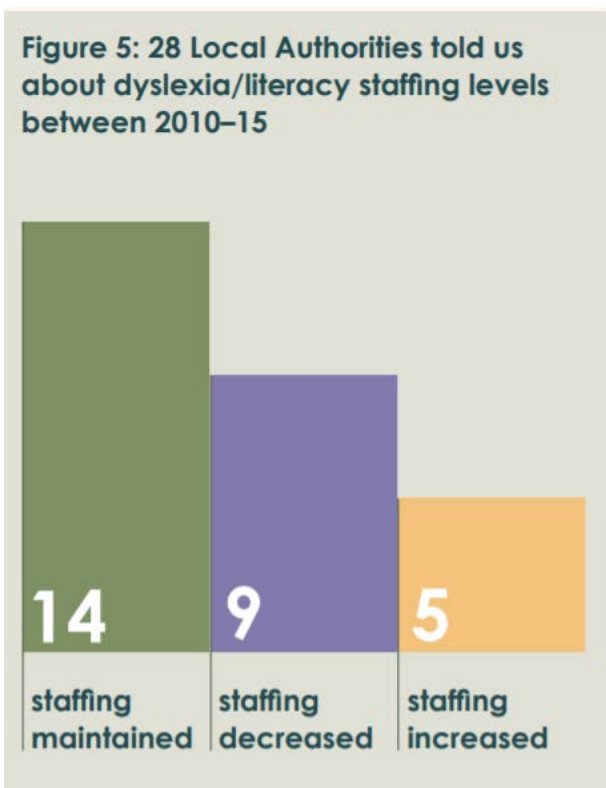
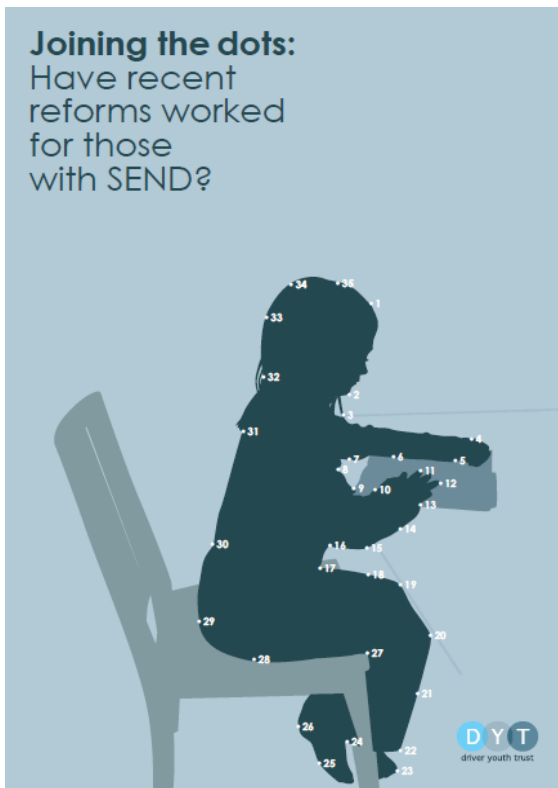
Specialists – FOI



Driving Practice | Driving Policy | Driving Standards

- February 2017 FOI asking:
 - Amount of money DfE spent on dyslexia specialists
 - Number of specialists
 - How many specialists in state funded schools
- Answer:
 - £6,108,000 spent
 - No record on location of specialists

Specialists – Joining the Dots



Audit



- SLCN Review – collaboration in sector (Ican)
- Dyslexia Audit could consider:
 - Geographical gaps
 - Waiting times for state provision
 - size of private sector provision
 - inequity of access

What the APPG should do

15

- **Our ambition: every school or cluster having a dyslexia specialist to provide expertise**
- **Beginning a narrative with policy-makers that on why specialist teachers are so vital**
- **Dyslexia Audit**





Conclusion

With these measures I believe we will help to create a school environment that is better suited to support the needs of dyslexic pupils and allow their talents to shine.



Thank You

You can find us at:

-  www.driveryouthtrust.com
-  info@driveryouthtrust.com
-  02030 967711
-  @DriverTrust