

Dyslexia Friendly Schools Quality Mark

1. What is the Quality Mark about?

The idea behind the Quality Mark is that changing practice to accommodate dyslexic individuals often results in good practice for everyone. In the case of schools, the CDA recognises that the majority of moderately dyslexic students will be taught in mainstream classrooms and by non specialist tutors. Therefore it is important that, as well as employing appropriate teaching methods, all environments are dyslexia friendly. This is what the Quality Mark strives to be.

2. How do people get involved?

The Quality Mark was originally an initiative from the BDA's Education Office, drawing on expertise from across the BDA. In Cornwall the Quality Mark is now overseen jointly by the Education Authority and the CDA. Schools interested in acquiring the Quality Mark should contact one of the Dyslexia Advisors Sandra Page or Jane Beaumont. They run a Dyslexia Friendly Schools course for teachers who schools want to acquire the Quality Mark. Why not encourage your school to apply?



Treloweth School, Redruth, receiving the DFSs Quality Mark

4. What are the benefit of gaining the Quality Mark?

The Quality Mark:

- helps to meet the requirements of recent government initiatives such as 'Every Child Matters' and 'personalised learning';
- gives public recognition to organisations that are striving to make themselves more dyslexia friendly and their services more accessible to dyslexic people;
- helps public service providers meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Act and Special Educational Needs and Disability Order; and
- helps to develop a dyslexia friendly society that enables dyslexic people to achieve their full potential.

5. DFSs in Cornwall

In Cornwall the CDA forms part of the accreditation team that visits schools applying for the Dyslexia Friendly Schools Quality Mark. There is a stringent set of criteria that schools have to meet and an inspection process which takes a full day.

Examples of some of the criteria schools need to meet to obtain the DFS Quality Mark:

- all staff need to be proactive in implementing and promoting inclusive dyslexia friendly practice;
- pupils with dyslexia are supported pastorally as well as academically;
- all teaching support staff have undergone dyslexia friendly training and all new staff have a DFS induction programme;
- parents and governors are involved in the development of DFS and have the opportunity to participate in ongoing training;
- an information pack re the inclusion of children with dyslexia is available to all staff;
- whole school assessment systems are used to identify and monitor pupils with dyslexia;

- identified pupils are individually assessed and the outcomes are used to inform provision;
- individual or small group provision is available where appropriate;
- teachers use appropriate multi-sensory teaching styles and pupils learn in a multi-sensory way and are given the choice of recording methods;

However parents should bear in mind that none of these schools are claiming to be perfect and they all recognise that they still have plenty of room for improvement - some of the criteria will have been classified as "working towards" rather than "achieved" and the process will require regular follow-ups to see how they are progressing. So far the following schools have obtained the DFSS Quality Mark in Cornwall.

Primary Schools - Tregadillett, St Hilary, St Mawes, Rosemellion, Bosvigo, Wendron, Tregolls, St Day and Carharrack, Treloweth, Newlyn, Treleigh, St Minver, St Winnow, Mullion Primary. Penryn Juniors, Bodriggy, Portreath, Parc Eglos, Furlanesend, Charlestown, St Just, Bodmin, Sandyhill, Gerrans, St Columb Minor, Ponde, Porthleven, The Bishops, St Petrocs.

Secondary Schools - Penair, Richard Lander, Mullion, Torpoint, Roseland, Camborne, Redruth, Bodmin College, Liskeard.



Pupils receiving the DFSS Quality Mark on October 08 at Bodmin.