



Learning Support Policy

at

Bedstone College

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Staff	Head of LS/DOS
Gov	

Introduction

This policy applies to all members of our college community, including boarders and those in our EYFS setting. Bedstone College is fully committed to ensuring that the application of this policy is non-discriminatory in line with the [UK Equality Act \(2010\)](#). Further details are available in the college's Equality and Diversity Policy document.

Learning Support

Approximately 11% of the school population currently accesses Learning Support (LS) on a regular basis (currently 21 individuals) for help with a range of learning difficulties. Lessons are offered primarily on a one-to-one basis, although small group tuition is also available as is classroom support for class teachers. The ethos of the LS Department is to offer enjoyable and stimulating lessons in a friendly and supportive environment which help to address whatever particular difficulty any student is experiencing with their learning. Although we exist primarily to support those who have identified areas of weakness, the department is available to offer support to all students at any time. Raising self-esteem is seen as key to removing barriers to learning for many of our students, and as such, we feel it is important that all our students are given every opportunity to experience academic success and to enjoy the experience of learning with us.

Staff

The Department has two members of staff. Jamie Lowe (JGL), HoD, full time, Teresa Chilles (TC) works part-time.

Mr Jamie Lowe

Head of Learning Support

MA (1st Class Honours), French, Edinburgh University

DIP RSA (Dyslexia), Hereford and Ludlow College

PGD Inclusion and Special Educational Needs, Edgehill University

CPT3A, Real Training

PGCE, Oxford Brookes University

Mrs Teresa Chilles

Part-time Teacher (1 day per week)

BSc

PGCE

DIP RSA (Dyslexia)

Section 2 – Assessment and Referral

Initial Assessment and Referral

All new students are invited for an informal discussion with the Head of LS on entry to the secondary school. If necessary they are then assessed following this discussion using the Bangor Dyslexia Test and any other appropriate screening test. Further assessments may then need to be carried out depending on the outcome of these initial assessments.

New entrants to the prep school are assessed and referred if necessary by their class teacher. Pupils experiencing difficulty are also identified through the regular Mark Order meeting system. Students or parents may also self-refer at any time.

If it is thought that a student may need some help or support on a regular basis then parents or carers will be informed and asked to give their consent. There is a charge for regular LS lessons, and LS staff will make a recommendation as to how many weekly lessons may be needed and over what timescale. Any changes in provision will be discussed and agreed by parents.

Ongoing Assessment

Teachers have access to a wide range of assessment materials which are used to inform them and their students of progress being made and also to support applications for exam access arrangements. Completed tests are stored in a locked filing cabinet in JGL's office. Keys are held by JGL and Ms Paula Davies.

Assessment Materials

The Department has a wide range of standardised testing materials, which include:

Literacy and Numeracy

Diagnostic Reading Analysis (DRA)

Letterchains and Wordchains

The Dyslexia Screening Test (DST)

The Wide Range Achievement Test (WRAT4)

Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing (CTOPP)

Intelligence

The Wide Range Intelligence Test (WRIT)

Test of Memory and Learning (TOMAL)

Behaviour and self-esteem

The Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ)

Individual Learning Plans (ILPs)

Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) were introduced in January 2009 to help with individual target-setting. These are updated in discussion with the student at the beginning of each term. ILPs are given to all the students' teachers and to their tutor and houseparent if applicable. Copies are emailed home, and parents and staff are invited to contribute to them at any time.

Section 3 – Exam Access Arrangements

Exam access arrangements

Those receiving LS and any identified by other methods will then further assessed to establish evidence of need. Exam access arrangements which are available include:

- Coloured overlays
- Coloured paper
- Extra time up to 25%
- Oral language modifier
- Reader / Scribe
- Supervised rest breaks
- Word processors

Testing will normally be carried out during normal LS lesson time, although where detailed evidence is required (for example for a reader or scribe), there may be an additional charge to parents. Those identified as needing extra time who are not currently receiving regular extra support will be encouraged to join LS for the duration of their GCSE courses.

JGL is the named specialist teacher who is registered with the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) to carry out assessments for exam access arrangements. Students must complete a data protection disclaimer prior to the application being made on the OCR Interchange website. All documentation supporting the application and the disclaimer should be filed in the Headmaster's secretary's office prior to the commencement of the relevant exam series.

Psychological Reports

When psychological reports are needed, for example the Army Education Service sometimes request reports when they are supporting families in paying for LS, school can arrange for these to be produced under a private arrangement between an Educational Psychologist and parents.

Section 4 – Tuition and Resources

Tuition

In consultation with the student (and sometimes parents), the LS teacher will establish what extra tuition may be of benefit to the student. This is recorded on the ILP and reviewed at the start of each term. LS has no set scheme of work since each student receives an individually tailored programme of study. Lessons should be fast-paced, varied, enjoyable and should always offer the student opportunities to experience success. Structured cumulative or pupil centred multi-sensory approaches are recommended.

Generally, lessons in Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 are skill-based, whereas lessons in Key Stages 4 and 5 they are more likely to focus on coursework and exam preparation. This is arranged in consultation with the class teacher.

Resources

Learning Support is based in the buildings near to the Medical Centre.

LS have a large range of resources which includes the following:

- Alpha to Omega
- Auditory memory training
- Get Revising Study Kit
- Key Stage 3 Learning Kit
- Key Stage 4 Learning Kit
- Lucid Comprehension Booster
- Megawords
- Nessy brainbooster
- Nessy fingers (touch typing course)
- Numbershark
- Reading Comprehension in Varied Subject Matter
- Speed Up!
- Starspell
- Stride Ahead
- The Dyslexia Institute Maths Programme
- The Ginn Handwriting Programme
- The Nessy Learning Programme
- Trugs (Teaching Reading Using Games) Programme
- Toe by Toe
- Units of Sound
- Various games and puzzles
- Visual memory training
- Wordshark

Students in KS3 and 4 who struggle with spelling are encouraged to use the Aurally Coded English (ACE) Spelling Dictionary (LDA), and in KS1 and 2 are given the “500 Word Book” (Learning Materials Ltd, Wolverhampton). LS have support materials for both of these resources which help students to learn how to use them independently.

The Department has two networked PCs and one standalone PC.

A collection of 80+ fiction and non-fiction books for reluctant or struggling readers is held in the school library and is available to all students.

Section 5 – Recent Developments

CReSTeD Status

In February 2013, the LS Department and school invited an inspection by the Council for the Registration of Schools Teaching Dyslexic Students (CReSTeD). CReSTeD judged that the learning support provision for students with Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) was of a sufficiently high standard to merit the award of Dyslexia Unit (DU) status to Bedstone College. This prestigious status is only shared with 37 other schools nationwide. CReSTeD hold a database of schools which meet its standards of provision and promotes its schools to parents, local authorities and the Ministry of Defence. Currently only two other schools in Shropshire (Ellesmere College and Ercall Wood) have this status. No schools in Herefordshire, Powys or Staffordshire have CReSTeD status, although there are 3 in Cheshire, 3 in Gloucestershire and 2 in the West Midlands. For further information, see www.crested.org.uk.

Training and Qualification

In 2013-2014, JGL completed the OCR Level 7 Diploma in Teaching and Assessing Learners with Specific Difficulties qualification, the “gold standard” in the field of specialist dyslexia teaching and assessment.

Annual Learning Support Conference

Since 2010, the LS Department have organised an annual conference for Learning Support specialists from across the region, and this has grown in stature over the years to become the leading event of its kind in the Midlands region. The conference has become increasingly well attended, and Bedstone have hosted some of the UK’s leading experts in the fields of Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and Dycalculia. The event in 2014 attracted around 90 delegates from across the region, and raised a considerable amount of money for the Department. The keynote speaker for 2014-2015 will be Professor Amanda Kirby of the University of South Wales.

Learning Support for All

It is very much in the ethos of the Department that Learning Support should be accessible to all students, regardless of ability or attainment. We aim to continue to develop awareness of our service across the school community, and to ensure that all students and staff are aware that we are available to support inclusive learning throughout the college. In particular, we aim to offer support to all students, free of charge, whenever they may experience learning difficulty.