Dyslexia Ireland

POLICY COVERSHEET

Name of Policy and Version:	**EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY ASSESSMENT (DYSLEXIA) POLICY v4.0**
Policy Status:	New Policy ☐ Revision of Existing Policy [X]
Approval for this policy given by:	Dyslexia Ireland Board
Date of Approval:	This version of the policy was approved on 12.2.2026
Review Due Date:	31.3.2028
Contributors:	Dyslexia Ireland staff & Governance & Risk sub-committee
Document Location:	Approved Policy folder on Governance & Risk Google Drive Folder and on Staff Shared Drive in Policy folder.

1. The purpose of this document is to outline the policy of Dyslexia Ireland in relation to the educational psychology assessment service that it provides for dyslexia.

2. Dyslexia is a learning difference that can cause difficulties with learning and work. It affects approximately 1 in 10. It occurs on a spectrum with some people mildly affected and others more severely.

3. Everyone with dyslexia is different but there is a commonality of difficulties with reading, spelling and writing and related cognitive/processing difficulties. Dyslexia can affect the development of other skills, such as aspects of maths, or learning another language.

4. Dyslexia is not a general difficulty with learning, it impacts specific skill areas. The impact of dyslexia can change according to the environment (i.e. what a dyslexic person is being asked to do and under what circumstances). With the right understanding, accommodations and support, people with dyslexia can achieve success in education, the workplace and in wider society.

5. While people with dyslexia may develop strengths due to their dyslexia such as determination, problem solving and resilience, dyslexia does not automatically bring specific gifts or talents. Dyslexia Ireland recognises and respects the individual variation that all human beings display, including those with dyslexia.

6. Dyslexia Ireland offers an individualised assessment service that investigates the presence and nature of literacy difficulties and establishes if the difficulties are consistent with a profile of dyslexia.

7. The educational psychology assessment offered by Dyslexia Ireland is informed by the following principles:
    - Informed consent
    - Best interests of the individual being assessed
    - Evidence-based practice
    - Early assessment and intervention
    - Contextualised assessment
    - Least intrusive assessment

8. The service is offered to children, young people and adults. Children should be at least six years of age and have completed at least 18 months of primary education.

9. Referral forms are completed by the parents/guardians or the individual (and their school as appropriate). All information is reviewed before the assessment appointment date. In a

small number of cases a member of our educational psychology team may contact the individual (or their parents/guardians) in advance to get additional information.

10. The educational psychology team takes a contextualised approach and takes account of relevant background information from parents/guardians, individuals, mainstream and special education teachers (SETs), schools and colleges, and any other relevant sources. This information is analysed alongside results of tests administered.

11. The assessment process takes approximately two hours. This includes pre-assessment discussion, test administration and feedback to parents and/or the individual (where appropriate) about the findings and recommendations of the assessment. Sometimes, if the psychologist needs to first consult with the senior educational psychologists, feedback may be provided by phone instead shortly after the session.

12. The assessment can be conducted in person or via video-conferencing (Zoom). Both formats follow the same process and the client can decide which format better suits their circumstances.

13. The assessment covers a range of literacy skills which may include reading of single words (both real and non-words), phonological awareness, reading fluency/speed, reading accuracy, comprehension, spelling and writing. Related cognitive skills including memory, rapid naming and other language skills may also be investigated. The actual tests used will depend on the individual's age and needs.

14. Dyslexia Ireland will only conduct an IQ test if it is in the best interest of the individual, or to support certain resource applications. (Traditionally a discrepancy model, measuring the gap between IQ and literacy skills, was used to diagnose dyslexia, however this model is now outdated and does not reflect current research evidence).

15. A full written report is sent within four weeks of the assessment, and sooner where possible.

16. Clients are encouraged to contact Dyslexia Ireland at any time if they have a query about the assessment or their report.

17. Dyslexia Ireland operates this assessment service on a not-for-profit basis and offers reduced rates to those in financial need.

18. This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure it remains in line with current best practice and evidence base.