

Fortismere School
Dyslexia Diagnosis: Guidance for Parents 2025-26

1. Do I need to get a diagnosis for my child?

No, you don't need a diagnosis for your child to receive support from us. We will provide appropriate support based on the evidence we gather through data reviews, screening and classroom observations.

However, you might choose to pursue a formal diagnostic assessment because you want to:

- Have a clear understanding of your child's specific learning difficulties
- Obtain additional supporting evidence
- Have peace of mind and better understand how to support your child at home

The decision to pursue a diagnosis is entirely optional.

2. If I Decide to Pursue a Diagnosis, What Should I Check?

If you decide to pursue a diagnostic assessment, you should ensure it's carried out by someone suitably qualified. You can either:

- Request an assessment from Haringey Local Authority, or
- Contact an independent educational psychologist or another suitably qualified professional directly

Key Questions to Ask the Assessment Provider:

1. Are you appropriately qualified to conduct dyslexia assessments?

- The assessor must be suitably trained and qualified (e.g., an educational psychologist or specialist assessor with appropriate qualifications)

2. Will the assessment report be suitable for exam access arrangements?

- The report needs to provide evidence that meets JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) requirements
- It should clearly document the substantial and long-term adverse effects on day-to-day activities
- It should include specific recommendations for access arrangements

3. What will the assessment include?

- Ensure it covers reading, writing, spelling, and other relevant areas
- Check it will provide a comprehensive picture of your child's needs

4. When will the report be available?

- Be aware of exam deadlines: 21 March 2026 for access arrangements applications for summer 2026 exams
- The report needs to be available in time for the school to process applications

5. What is the cost?

- Private assessments need to be paid for by parents/carers
- Costs can vary significantly, so ask for a clear breakdown

Important Information

- ✓ **Your child will receive support at school whether or not you pursue a formal diagnosis**
- ✓ **Our school's screening and evidence gathering is often sufficient for access arrangements applications**

Useful Resources

For more information about dyslexia diagnosis and assessment, you may find the following resources helpful:

- **British Dyslexia Association:** Information on how dyslexia is diagnosed
- **NHS website:** Information about dyslexia assessments