

DARE 2019 Information for Psychologists in relation to applicants with a Specific Learning Difficulty

1. Acceptable report content for diagnosis of SLD

Diagnosis: A full psychological assessment report **of any age**, which clearly states that the applicant presents with a Specific Learning Difficulty (SLD; other acceptable terminology includes: Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Specific Learning Disability/ Disorder).

Please note that an IQ Score or General Ability Score is no longer a requirement for DARE. IQ score and General Ability level are not considered exclusionary factors for DARE.

2. Attainment Scores

In addition to a full psychological assessment, applicants to DARE with a diagnosis of SLD must provide up to date attainment scores. These scores are required in order to evidence current impact.

Applicants must have **two literacy or two numeracy attainment scores** at or below the 10th percentile (Standard Score of 81 or below). Results from schools-based testing and/ or tests carried out by a suitably qualified psychologist may be reported. All testing must have been carried out on or after **1 February 2017**.

The scores of the attainment testing may be presented in one of the following three ways:

1. **Schools:** Attainment scores can be entered into Indicator 6 (Specific Learning Difficulty Attainment Scores) by the school using attainment scores from school-based testing carried out on or after 1 February 2017.
2. **Psychologist:** Where the attainment scores are from tests carried out by a suitably qualified psychologist, one of the following must be submitted:
 - A full Psychological Assessment Report which contains relevant attainment scores from testing carried out on or after 1 February 2017 **OR**
 - A fully completed **DARE 2019 SLD Attainment Summary Sheet** or an equivalent summary report from a Psychologist.
3. **Combination:** Where a combination of scores from psychologist and school-based testing is being reported, all scores can be entered into Indicator 6 by the school but this must be accompanied by one of the documents listed in point 2 above.

In all cases, these must have been carried out on or after **1 February 2017**, and all applicants must submit an Educational Impact Statement (EIS) completed by their school.

DARE 2019 Information for Psychologists in relation to applicants with an SLD

Attainments in Literacy: A score at or below the 10th percentile (Standard Score of 81 or below) can be presented in any TWO of the following literacy areas to meet DARE criteria:

- Reading accuracy
- Single word reading
- Reading comprehension
- Phonological skills/ Pseudoword Decoding
- Reading speed/fluency
- Spelling
- Writing speed

Attainments in Numeracy: A score at or below the 10th percentile (Standard Score of 81 or below) can be presented in any TWO of the following numeracy areas to meet DARE criteria:

- Mathematical reasoning and problem solving
- Mathematical computation
- Mathematical fluency

Please note: Written Expression was removed from the DARE criteria for Specific Learning Difficulty and is no longer acceptable for DARE eligibility.

Reporting Scores: Attainment scores must be reported as standard scores or percentile points. Descriptive terms and score ranges alone are not sufficient.

Appendix: An appendix may be included to list the tests used in the assessment (with references) and scores achieved in these tests, together with a table of results identifying the standard scores and/or percentile points achieved in these tests.

3. DARE Suitable attainment tests for SLD

All applicants must be assessed using age-appropriate tests.

Tests should be properly standardized, with clear evidence of validity and reliability.

Tests should be up to date and currently in use.

Use of obsolete tests will make the DARE application ineligible. In circumstances where a test has been superseded by a revised version, test administrators are advised that it is best practice to use the most recent test available. Superseded versions of tests are considered to be valid for three years after the introduction of the new version of the test in this country.

Suitable tests for psychologist testing: The following list of suitable attainment tests for SLD has been prepared by the Disability Advisory Board to DARE, a panel of experts in the field of SLD. The panel reviews the list annually and considers new tests for inclusion.

DARE 2019 Information for Psychologists in relation to applicants with an SLD

| 1. Reading accuracy | | | |
|---|------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Test | Subtest | Age range | Norms |
| GORT (Gray Oral Reading Test) 5 | Reading accuracy | 6-23.11 | US population |
| The Adult Reading Test (ART) – Second Ed | Accuracy | 16-55 | Higher Education students in England |
| 2. Single word reading | | | |
| Test | Subtest | Age range | Norms |
| Wide Range Achievement Test 4 (WRAT4) | Word reading | 5-94 | US population |
| Wechsler Individual Achievement Test – Third UK Edition (WIAT-III UK) | Word reading | 4-25:11 | UK population |
| Wechsler Individual Achievement Test – Second UK Edition (WIAT-II UK) | Word reading | 4-86 | UK population up to 17 US population after 17 |
| Woodcock-Johnson-4 Tests of Achievement (WJ4 – ACH) | Word identification | 2-90 | US population |
| Woodcock Reading Mastery Tests (WRMT-3) | Word identification | 5-75+ | US population |
| British Ability Scales 3 (BAS-3) | Word reading | 3-17 | UK population |
| 3. Reading comprehension | | | |
| Test | Subtest | Age range | Norms |
| Wide Range Achievement Test 4 (WRAT4) | Sentence comprehension | 5-94 | US population |
| Wechsler Individual Achievement Test – Third UK Edition (WIAT-III UK) | Reading comprehension | 4-25:11 | UK population |
| Wechsler Individual Achievement Test – Second UK Edition (WIAT-II UK) | Reading comprehension | 4-86 | UK population up to 17 US population after 17 |
| Woodcock-Johnson-4 Tests of Achievement (WJ4 – ACH) | Passage comprehension | 2-90 | US population |
| Woodcock Reading Mastery Tests (WRMT-3) | Word & passage comprehension | 5-75+ | US population |
| GORT (Gray Oral Reading Test) 5 | Reading comprehension | 6-23.11 | US population |
| The Adult Reading Test (ART) – Second Edition | Comprehension | 16-55 | Higher Education students in England |

DARE 2019 Information for Psychologists in relation to applicants with an SLD

| 4. Phonological Skills/ Pseudoword Decoding | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Test | Subtest | Age range | Norms |
| Wechsler Individual Achievement Test – Third UK Edition (WIAT-III UK) | Pseudoword decoding | 4-25:11 | UK population |
| Wechsler Individual Achievement Test – Second UK Edition (WIAT-II UK) | Pseudoword decoding | 4-86 | UK population up to 17 US population after 17 |
| Woodcock-Johnson-4 Tests of Achievement (WJ4 – ACH) | Word attack | 2-90 | US population |
| Woodcock Reading Mastery Tests (WRMT-3) | Word attack | 5-75+ | US population |
| Comprehensive test of Phonological processing-2 nd Ed (CTOPP-2) | Phonological awareness composite | 4-24.11 | US population |
| Test of Word Reading Efficiency-2 (TOWRE-2) | Phonemic decoding efficiency | 6-24.11 | US population |
| 5. Reading speed/ fluency | | | |
| Test | Subtest | Age range | Norms |
| Wechsler Individual Achievement Test – Third UK Edition (WIAT-III UK) | Oral reading fluency | 7-17+ | UK population |
| Wechsler Individual Achievement Test – Second UK Edition (WIAT-II UK) | Reading speed | 4-86 | UK population up to 17 US population after 17 |
| Woodcock-Johnson-4 Tests of Achievement (WJ4 – ACH) | Reading fluency | 2-90 | US population |
| The Adult Reading Test (ART) – Second Edition | Speed of reading | 16-55 | Higher Education students in England |
| GORT (Gray Oral Reading Test) 5 | Reading rate, Reading fluency | 6-23.11 | US population |
| Test of Word Reading Efficiency-2 (TOWRE-2) | Sight word efficiency | 6-24.11 | US population |
| 6. Spelling | | | |
| Test | Subtest | Age range | Norms |
| Wide Range Achievement Test 4 (WRAT4) | Spelling | 5-94 | US population |
| Wechsler Individual Achievement Test – Third UK Edition (WIAT-III UK) | Spelling | 4-25:11 | UK population |
| Wechsler Individual Achievement Test – Second UK Edition (WIAT-II UK) | Spelling | 4-86 | UK population up to 17 US population after 17 |
| Woodcock-Johnson-4 Tests of Achievement (WJ4 – ACH) | Spelling | 2-90 | US population |
| Vernon Graded word spelling test 3 rd Ed | | 5-18 | UK students |
| British Ability Scales 3 (BAS-3) | Spelling | 3-17 | UK population |

DARE 2019 Information for Psychologists in relation to applicants with an SLD

| 7. Writing speed | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Test | Subtest | Age range | Norms |
| Detailed Assessment of Speed of Handwriting | Composite score of Subtests 1-4 | 9-16 & 17-25 | UK students in Higher education |
| The Adult Reading Test (ART) – Second Edition | Writing speed | 16-55 | Higher Education students in England |
| The Irish Adaptation of the Handwriting Speed Test | Mechanical speed of writing | 3rd class to 6th Year | Irish students |
| Hedderly Sentence Completion Test | | | UK |
| Woodcock-Johnson-4 Tests of Achievement (WJ4 – ACH) | Writing fluency | 2-90 | US population |

| Mathematical reasoning and problem solving | | | |
|---|--|------------------|--|
| Test | Subtest | Age range | Norms |
| Woodcock-Johnson-4 Tests of Achievement (WJ4 – ACH) | Applied problems or Quantitative reasoning | 2-90 | US population |
| Wechsler Individual Achievement Test – Third UK Edition (WIAT-III UK) | Maths problem solving | 4-25:11 | UK population |
| Wechsler Individual Achievement Test – Second UK Edition (WIAT-II UK) | Mathematical reasoning | 4-86 | UK population up to 17 US population after 17 |

| Mathematical computation | | | |
|---|----------------------|------------------|--|
| Test | Subtest | Age range | Norms |
| Woodcock-Johnson-4 Tests of Achievement (WJ4 – ACH) | Calculation | 2-90 | US population |
| Wechsler Individual Achievement Test – Third UK Edition (WIAT-III UK) | Numeracy | 4-25:11 | UK population |
| Wechsler Individual Achievement Test – Second UK Edition (WIAT-II UK) | Numerical operations | 4-86 | UK population up to 17 US population after 17 |
| Mathematics Competency Test | | 11-adult | UK |
| Wide Range Achievement Test 4 (WRAT4) | Math computation | 5-94 | US population |

| Mathematical fluency | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Test | Subtest | Age range | Norms |
| Woodcock-Johnson-4 Tests of Achievement (WJ4 – ACH) | Math fluency | 2-90 | US population |
| Wechsler Individual Achievement Test – Third UK Edition (WIAT-III UK) | Maths fluency (composite score only) | 4-25:11 | UK population |