

# DARE 2021 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 2019**.

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 2019.
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 2019 **OR**
  - A fully completed **DARE 2021 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 2019**, and all applicants must submit an Educational Impact Statement (EIS) completed by their school.

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**Attainments in Literacy:** A score at or below the 10<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

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<b>1. Reading accuracy</b>			
<b>Test</b>	<b>Subtest</b>	<b>Age range</b>	<b>Norms</b>
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
<b>2. Single word reading</b>			
<b>Test</b>	<b>Subtest</b>	<b>Age range</b>	<b>Norms</b>
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
<b>3. Reading comprehension</b>			
<b>Test</b>	<b>Subtest</b>	<b>Age range</b>	<b>Norms</b>
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

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<b>4. Phonological Skills/ Pseudoword Decoding</b>			
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 <sup>nd</sup> 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
<b>5. Reading speed/ fluency</b>			
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
<b>6. Spelling</b>			
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 <sup>rd</sup> Ed		5-18	UK students
British Ability Scales 3 (BAS-3)	Spelling	3-17	UK population

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<b>7. Writing speed</b>			
<b>Test</b>	<b>Subtest</b>	<b>Age range</b>	<b>Norms</b>
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

<b>Mathematical reasoning and problem solving</b>			
<b>Test</b>	<b>Subtest</b>	<b>Age range</b>	<b>Norms</b>
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

<b>Mathematical computation</b>			
<b>Test</b>	<b>Subtest</b>	<b>Age range</b>	<b>Norms</b>
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

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