

DARE 2021 Information for Guidance Counsellors/ Teachers in relation to applicants with a Specific Learning Difficulty

1. Attainment Scores

In addition to a full psychological assessment, applicants to DARE with a diagnosis of SLD must provide up to date attainment scores, 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.

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.

2. Educational Impact Criteria

The full psychological assessment report of any age must be accompanied by an Educational Impact Statement (EIS) completed by the school. As noted above, the attainment scores from school-based testing should be entered into Indicator 6 of the EIS, but this indicator may be left blank where the EIS is accompanied by a document containing attainment scores from tests carried out by a suitably qualified psychologist.

Applicants with an SLD **must meet Indicator 6**, i.e. two literacy or two numeracy attainment scores at or below the 10th percentile (Standard Score of 81 or below) and **must also meet ONE more indicator** on the EIS to meet the educational impact criteria.

3. Qualification of individual(s) carrying out attainment testing for a Specific Learning Difficulty

For the purposes of school-based testing, teachers must be competent 'test users' that are familiar with the DARE process and must be suitably qualified. They must also have a thorough knowledge of the DARE scheme and criteria for eligibility.

Suitably qualified individuals include:

- Teachers who are registered with the Teaching Council who have postgraduate qualifications in Special Education Needs or Guidance Counselling recognised by the Department of Education and Skills.
- Teachers who hold a recognised qualification in individual assessment (e.g. the Certificate of Competence in Educational Assessment).

4. 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.

If schools have a query in relation to the use of these assessment instruments, the school should contact their NEPS Psychologist.

If the query relates to an aspect of the DARE criteria, please consult the DARE Handbook or contact a member of the DARE Team (contact details in the DARE Handbook). Detailed information on the evidence of disability criteria is also available on <http://accesscollege.ie/dare/providing-evidence-of-your-disability/>.

Suitable tests for schools-based testing: The following list of suitable attainment tests for SLD which corresponds with the list of acceptable tests published by the Department of Education and Skills in Circular 0067/2020 (click here for the full circular:

https://www.education.ie/en/Circulars-and-Forms/Active-Circulars/cl0067_2020.pdf

Where attainment testing is carried out in schools by a suitably qualified teacher for the purposes of DARE, one (or more) of the following tests must be used.

Assessment Instruments (including tests and web-based resources) approved for use for guidance and/or learning support in post-primary schools from September 2020 until further notice

<i>ACHIEVEMENT TESTS: INDIVIDUALLY ADMINISTERED TESTS</i>					
<i>LITERACY (PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS/PROCESSING AND READING COMPREHENSION)</i>					
<p>The items in the list below assess a range of literacy skills including phonology, oral word reading, silent passage reading, reading fluency, reading comprehension, reading rate or speed, listening comprehension, spelling and handwriting. Decide the purpose of administration, i.e. what you want to find out, before you decide to purchase and use a test. Be aware that the majority of these instruments are developed and standardised in either the UK or the US and some may feature non-Irish cultural references or spellings. When possible, obtain a sample of the test and use the school's collective professional judgements to decide if the test will provide the information needed.</p>					
<i>Name and date of publication</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Age range</i>	<i>Norms</i>	<i>Publisher/distributor website</i>
Adult Reading Test, Second Edition (ART-2)	Individual	Adult reading test	16 years +	UK norms	www.pearsonclinical.co.uk
Comprehensive Test of Phonological Reasoning (CTOPP-2), 2nd Edition 2013	Individual	Used to assess phonological awareness, phonological memory and rapid naming.	4 to 24+	UK norms	www.pearsonclinical.co.uk
Diagnostic Reading Analysis, 2008, 2nd edition	Individual; Diagnostic Profiler CD Rom Available	Oral reading test, including initial listening passage plus reading accuracy, comprehension and speed, designed for less able readers.	7 to 16+	UK norms	www.hoddereducation.co.uk/

Hodder Oral Reading Tests, 2006	Individual	Provides separate measures of single word reading, sentence reading and reading speed.	5 to 16	UK norms	www.hoddereducation.co.uk/
Lucid Exact, 2009	Individual; digital only	Time efficient assessment of speeded word recognition, reading comprehension, reading speed, spelling, handwriting speed and typing speed.	11 to 24	UK norms	www.lucid-research.com
Non-word Reading Test, 2004	Individual	Test of phonological decoding to assess word reading skills and functional literacy.	6 to 16	UK norms	www.hoddereducation.co.uk/
<i>PhAB2 Primary</i>	Individual	A battery of six standardised tests measuring phonological awareness skills. Assessment for pupils with low scores in any phonics screening or literacy test. Suitable for EAL students.	6 to 14	UK norms	www.gl-assessment.ie

<i>PhAB Phonological Assessment Battery</i>	Individual	Identifies significant phonological difficulties and where special help is needed in processing sounds in spoken language. Battery of tests appropriate for use with bilingual children or children with EAL, includes data on special studies completed for children with specific learning difficulties (dyslexia).	6-14, recommended for 11 to 14	UK norms	www.gl-assessment.ie
Single Word Reading Test 6- 16, 2007	Individual	Six graded sets of ten words of increasing difficulty provide a measure of word reading skills with error analysis for diagnostic use.	6 to 16	UK norms	www.gl-assessment.ie
SPaRCS Test	Individual or group	A group of tests that are designed to assess spelling, processing speed and reading comprehension speed	13 -18	Irish and UK norms	https://educationelephant.ie

Wechsler Individual Achievement Test WIAT-III 3 rd UK edition for teachers, 2018.	Individual (Group – spelling only)	Provides normed assessment in untimed single word accuracy, reading comprehension, reading speed and single word spelling. Battery of five subtests to test key aspects of literacy.	4 to 16 (UK) -	UK norms	www.pearsonclinical.co.uk
Woodcock Reading Mastery Test 3 rd edition, 2011	Individual	Identifies specific strengths and weaknesses to plan targeted remediation; nine subtests: phonological awareness, letter and word identification, rapid naming, oral fluency, word attack, and listening, word and passage comprehension. Uses American spellings.	4:06 to 79:11	US norms	www.pearsonclinical.co.uk
York Assessment of Reading Comprehension, Passage Reading, Secondary, 2010 [Data Stored in EU]	Individual	Uses fiction and non-fiction passages to measure developing reading comprehension skills (Support website available - www.yarcsupport.co.uk)	11 to 16	UK norms	www.gl-assessment.ie

ACHIEVEMENT TESTS – INDIVIDUALLY ADMINISTERED TESTS COMPILATION INSTRUMENTS					
Please note that the instruments listed here consist of literacy and maths assessments and sometimes other areas.					
Name and date of publication	Type	Description	Age range	Norms	Publisher/distributor website
Expressive Vocabulary Test, 3rd edition, 2018	Individual	A test of expressive vocabulary and word retrieval for Standard English with 190 items and 2 forms.	2:6 to 90+	UK norms	www.pearsonclinical.co.uk
Wide Range Achievement Test – 4th edition, 2006	Individual or Group	WRAT-4 measures the basic academic skills of reading (words and sentences), spelling and maths computations; co-normed with WRIT. Uses American spellings.	5 to 94	US norms	www4.parinc.com www.annarbor.uk
Wide Range Achievement Test – 5th edition, 2018	Individual or Group	WRAT-5 measures and monitors fundamental word reading, spelling and math skills and sentence comprehension. It includes updated norms and revised subtests. Uses American spellings.	5 to 94	US norms	www4.parinc.com www.annarbor.uk
OWLS II: LC/OE and RC/WE Oral and Written Language Scales, 2nd edition, 2012	Individual	Provides assessment of receptive and expressive language with no reading or written responses required.	LC/OE- 3 to 21:11; RC/WE- 5 to 21:11	UK norms	www.pearsonclinical.co.uk

Woodcock- Johnson III Tests of Achievement Form C / Brief Battery, 2015	Individual	Battery of nine subtests of letter- word identification, reading fluency, passage comprehension, spelling, writing fluency, writing samples, calculation, applied problems and maths fluency. Uses American spellings.	2 to 90+	US norms	www.riverpub.com
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