What is Dyslexia?

An Overview for Whole School Staff

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Defining Dyslexia

Many Definitions Exist…Let's Simplify the Concept

Dyslexia is a learning difference affecting reading, spelling, and writing.

Occurs on a spectrum: Mild to severe.

Not a general learning difficulty: impacts specific skills.

Right support = Success in education and work.

Can commonly co-occur with other learning differences

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Language and Terminology

Dyslexia is a recognised disability under Irish and EU law

Person with dyslexia vs. Dyslexic person

Respect individual terminology preferences

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Indicators of Dyslexia

Common Indicators of Dyslexia (Age 12+)

01 Reads slowly with inaccuracies and struggles with fluency

02 Difficulty adjusting reading speed, lacks reading experience.

03 Struggles with spelling, handwriting, and written organisation.

04 Difficulty with planning, organisation, and time management.

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Indicators of Dyslexia

Common Indicators of Dyslexia (Age 12+)

05 Finds summarising, proofreading, and note-taking challenging.

06 Avoids or delays reading and writing tasks.

07 Mispronounces or misuses words and struggles to recall names.

08 Lacks self-confidence and has a poor self-image.

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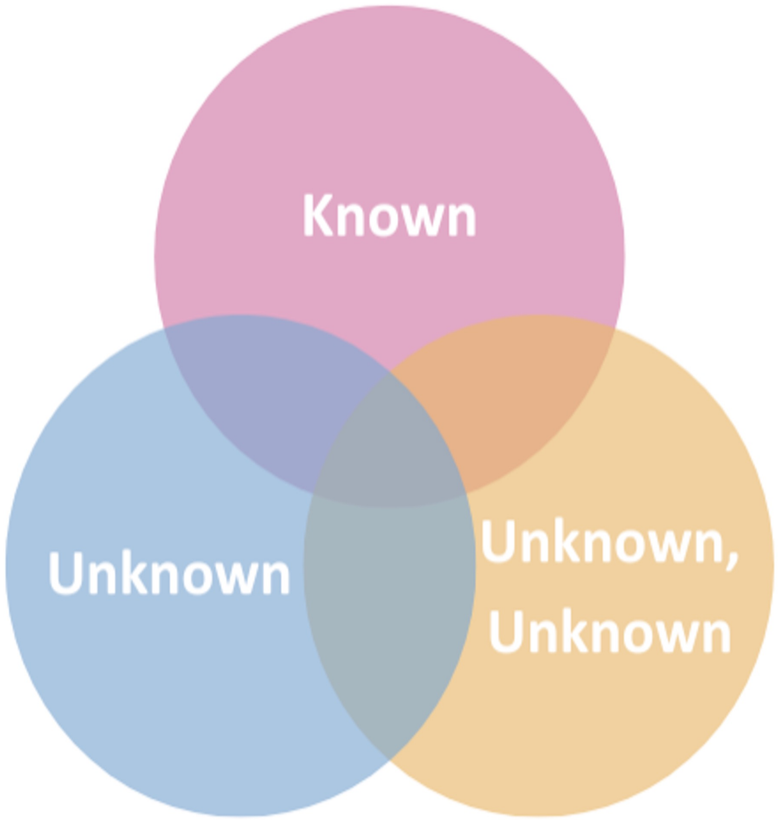
Dyslexia in the Classroom



Students with Formal Reports and assessments, confirming dyslexia

Students who show clear indicators of dyslexia but haven't been assessed

Students who mask their struggles through hard work, support at home, grinds etc

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Thank you

For more information on Defining Dyslexia, check out our website here.

For the most recent research and definition of Dyslexia, check out the Delphi Study here.

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