**The challenges of online learning for students with SpLDs**

When preparing online lessons and choosing tasks, please do bear in mind that learners with SpLDs may find particular challenges with online learning. I hope that the following table is helpful:

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| **Difficulty** | **Has an impact on** | **Strategies to help** |
| Slow and/or inaccurate reading  | Accessing long text documents;Research tasks;Comprehension;Note-taking;Picking out main point; | Support text with images;Provide links to audio versions;Remind students to use Read Aloud or Text to Speech facility on documents and PPTs;Reduce reading load – provide summaries;Provide skeleton notes; |
| Visual disturbance | All reading tasks but particularly reading from screens | Change page colour of your documents and slides;Avoid busy slides and handouts;1.5 line spacing;12 pt sans serif font best (this is Century Gothic);Avoid underlining and italics; |
| Weak working memory | Planning tasks;Structuring writing;Following multi-step, complex instructions;Keeping track of a story, plot or argument; | Chunked-up instructions;Writing frames and paragraph planners;To do lists and task checklists;Model answers;Examples and samples; |
| Organisation | Creating schedules;Managing time;Prioritising | To do lists and task checklists;Explicit help to plan tasks and workload;Clear, mini-deadlines;Pinned post for group timetables and deadlines; |
| Speed of processing | Assimilating new information; | Clear, concise explanations that pupils can refer to often;Opportunities for over-learning;Lots of repetition;Practise, practise, practise; |
| Slow speed of written work | Offer a choice of ways for students to record their learning, eg:audio recording; comic strip; script; monologue; poster; graphic; ppt slides; drawingConsider a variety of assessment methods, eg:puzzles; quizzes; multi-choice (could use Google forms); wisdom walls; padlets |
| Attention difficulties | Staying on task;Self-directed learning; | Study in short bursts;Regular breaks and rewards;Interactivity;Opportunities to move;Change of pace |
| Social & communication difficulties | Managing change;Chat tasks;Group work; | Routine where possible;Flag up changes to routine in advance;Be aware and pre-empt;Plan groups and pairs carefully |
| **NB strengths too!**These learners may also exhibit particular strengths which will help them (and all of us) through these strange times:* Creativity
* Stickability
* Sensitivity
* Motivation
* Problem solving
* Ability to visualise
* Big picture thinking skills
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