



The "Dyslexia Friendly School Award" was first earned by Rockcliffe First School in 2018 after a two-year, rigorous assessment procedure conducted by North Tyneside's Dyslexia Referral Team and the school SEND governor, Mary Evans.

Over a number of years, the teaching team at Rockcliffe First School has partnered closely with North Tyneside's Dyslexia Referral Team, firstly to support specific students who were experiencing literacy difficulties. The accreditation procedure began with a school "audit" that examined the methods used to identify and evaluate the needs of the students, as well as staff training, intervention programs, school resources, and instructional practices. We were thrilled to learn that our school had met all the requirements for a "Dyslexia Friendly School" and had successfully completed the certification process after a full day of evaluation by the Dyslexia Team.

Over time, it was realised that many of the methods and tools used to support those specific learners were also beneficial to a large number of other children. As a result, many of these tools and techniques were adopted as 'good practices' and integrated into regular classroom instruction. We built on our successes by

introducing a number of new initiatives, such as Drawing Club in the EYFS and the use of Little Wandle materials across the school, as we continued to strengthen our inclusive practices in the teaching of literacy. We worked closely with the Dyslexia Team to support pupils during 1/1 intervention time but also through the use of specialist TAs taking learning back into the classroom via personalised toolkits and small group support. Parents were invited to SEND cafes where they could seek information from the Dyslexia team and receive resources to support their children at home. We are incredibly proud of the progress that our children have made and the commitment that staff have shown to ensure that every child receives equitable teaching and learning opportunities, allowing them to become **successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens.**

We are thrilled to announce our recent re-accreditation of the Dyslexia Friendly School Award as it highlights our commitment to a whole school approach to inclusive teaching practices for all learners. Our Inclusion Officers were delighted to accept the award from elected mayor, Norma Readfern and we wish to thank North Tyneside's Dyslexia Referral Team for their invaluable support.

Jemma Buchanan

SENCo Rockcliffe First School