Section 3

Assessment Toolkit

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The local authority does not endorse any one particular type of assessment. This list has been compiled by SENCos who are undertaking assessments in their schools.

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Section 3: Assessment Toolkit

Cognition and Learning (includes assessments for reading, spelling, reasoning etc.)						
Accelerated Reader	Cognition and Learning	Reading programme with assessments built in for children once reading simple sentences (Y2 upwards)	Yes: gives reading age and standardised score	No	Renaissance http://www.renlearn.co.uk/accelerated-reader/	Use for whole school from Y2 upwards, not for very low Y2s
Access Reading Test (ART)	Reading comprehension	Looks at strengths and weaknesses in four key aspects of reading comprehension: Literal comprehension, vocabulary, inference and analysis	Yes	Yes	Hodder: https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/AccessReadingTest	
British Picture Vocabulary Scale (BPVS)	Verbal reasoning	Understanding of vocabulary- each word has four pictures to select from to show if they understand word meaning. Gives idea of general understanding of the world. Verbal reasoning general ability measure. Used alongside non verbal reasoning to compare. Designed for 3 - 16 years.	Yes and age equivalent	No	GL assessment https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/british-picture-vocabulary-scale-bpvs3/	Recommended for use with dyslexia portfolio screener
Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT4)	Cognitive abilities test	Reasoning with words, numbers, shapes and designs. Designed for children and young people aged 6 -17+ years.	Yes	Yes	GL Assessment https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/cognitive-abilities-test-cat4/	
Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing - Second Edition (CTOPP-2)	Phonological processing	Phonological awareness, phonological memory and rapid naming. Designed for 4 years to 24 years 11 months.	Yes	Yes	R Wagner et al (Authors) Available from: http://www.pearsonclinical.co.uk/AlliedHealth/PaediatricAssessments/PhonologicalAwareness/ctopp-2/comprehensive-test-of-phonological-processing-second-edition.aspx	
Dyslexia Screener	First stage screening assessment for dyslexic tendencies	Identifies dyslexic tendencies in pupils aged 5–16+ years and recommends intervention strategies. Digital or paper format.	Yes	Yes	GL Assessment https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/produ	Cheap, easy to use, online. Unreliable for

					cts/dyslexia-screener-portfolio-and-guidance/	very low ability or under 6.
Dyslexia Portfolio	Individual follow-up assessment to the Dyslexia Screener (see above) for those pupils who may have been screened as having dyslexic tendencies, or whose performance in literacy is causing concern. Assesses individual signs of dyslexia.	Assesses the following: • Naming • Speed Reading • Speed Phoneme Deletion • Non-word Reading • Single Word Spelling • Recall of Digits forwards • Recall of Digits backward • Single Word Reading • Writing - copy/free writing speed	Yes for each area	No	GL assessment https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/dyslexia-screener-portfolio-and-guidance/	Need a measure of general ability for it to give a measure of level of dyslexia, which is measured A (none) to E (severe). Online report generation tool produces a report for teacher and parents.
Lucid - Ability	Computerised assessment of verbal and non-verbal skills	Verbal consists of questions to test vocabulary, verbal analogies, logical reasoning, symbol manipulation etc. Non verbal consists of visualisation of sequences patterns etc. Paper or digital formats available for different age groups	Standardised scores, Age equivalents and percentiles. Results are independent of reading attainment. Lucid Ability also gives an estimate of general intelligence.	No	GL Assessment https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/lucid-ability/	Lucid Ability can be used with ages 4-16, has a more enjoyable format and results are interpreted graphically. Cost implication as licence needs renewing annually.
Lucid - Rapid (part of the 'Lucid' suite of assessments for specific	Provides an indication of dyslexia	Quick group/class screening for dyslexia in pupils aged 4 to 15 Consists of 4 sub-tests according to age - Phonological processing; working memory; visual-verbal integration memory; phonic decoding skills	Standardised scores, Age equivalents and centiles	The administrator's manual explains how to interpret results and their	GL Assessment https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/lucid/	Computerised tests, more enjoyable format, results immediate and interpreted

learning difficulties)				implications for learning.		graphical. Cost implication as licence needs renewing annually.
Lucid - LASS (part of the 'Lucid' suite of assessments for specific learning difficulties)	Cognition & Learning	Designed to highlight differences between actual and expected literacy levels, with two versions: 8-11 years and 11-15 years. Assesses areas such as: visual memory, auditory-verbal memory, spelling, reasoning, and reading for meaning, reading single words & phonological processing.	Yes in each area	No, but some preferable to read the resulting charts.	GL Assessment https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/lucid/	
Neale Reading Analysis of Reading Ability - Second Revised British Edition - NARA II	Reading - accuracy, comprehension and rate	Consists of 2 parallel sets of graded passages, plus extension passages for use with more able or older pupils and diagnostic tests	Yes Standardised scores, Age equivalents and percentiles	No, The administrator's manual explains how to interpret results, gives case studies and advice on next steps.	MD Neale (Author) Available from GL Assessment: https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/neale-analysis-of-reading-ability-nara/	It can be used as a basic test of reading speed, decoding and comprehensions skills but can also be used for diagnostic purposes.
Nessy - Dyslexia Quest screening	Cognition and Learning. Provides a report of learning abilities associated with dyslexia.	Assesses 6 cognitive ability areas, including: processing speed, phonological awareness, auditory sequential memory, visual word memory, visual sequential memory and working memory	Yes in each area	No, it generates a report.	Nessy https://www.nessy.com/uk/product/dyslexia-screening/	
New Salford Sentence Reading Test	Reading - accuracy and an optional measure for checking comprehension	Gives a reading age and a comprehension age. Consists of 3 equivalent sets of graded sentences. Suitable for less able readers from the age of 6 upwards.	Yes Standardised scores, Age equivalents and percentiles	No, the manual is clear and easy to follow. Would advise reading the manual carefully and carrying out some	Colin McCarty and Marie Lallaway (Authors) https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/New-Salford-Sentence-Reading-Test	It is quick to administer and to score. Useful to measure progress on a termly basis.

				practice tests on children you are not concerned about.		We do this on all year 3s in September and then every term for any children who are flagged up as not performing as well as they could be.
Phonological Assessment Battery (PHAB)	Phonological awareness and processing	Designed to assess phonological processing in individual children. It is a practical measure that identifies children aged 6-14 years who have significant phonological difficulties and need special help in processing sounds in spoken language.	Yes Standardised scores, Age equivalents and percentiles	No, however would recommend reading the manual carefully and perhaps watching someone experienced in using it before doing on your own. It's quite involved.	GL Assessment https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/phonological-assessment-battery-phab/	EPs often ask about this when there are concerns about a child or young person's literacy skills. SENCO: Scores are presented on a computer generated graph for easy visual interpretation.
PM Benchmark Reading Assessment	Reading - assesses instructional and independent reading levels and understanding of the texts	Consists of 46 levelled fiction and non-fiction texts ranging from emergent levels to reading age 12.	No	No	Available from: https://shop.scholastic.co.uk/series/1080	A useful screening tool for monitoring purposes. Easy to administer and can be used as often as required.
Precision teaching	Reading - measures word recall	Consists of reading target words automatically, on a daily basis.	No - Proficiency level is 95% accuracy	No	Kent Educational Psychology Service www.sendgateway.org.	Quick and easy to monitor.

					uk/download.a-basic-guide-to-precision-teaching.html	
Raven Coloured Progressive Matrices	Non Verbal Reasoning	Puzzles/patterns of increasing complexity - children have to identify the missing piece from 4 choices. Gives Non Verbal Reasoning general ability measure.	Yes and age equivalent	No	John C Raven et al (Author) Available from: http://www.pearsonclinical.co.uk/Psychology/ChildCognitionNeuropsychologyandLanguage/ChildGeneralAbilities/Ravens-Educational/Ravens-Educational.aspx	
Sandwell Early Numeracy Test (SENT)	Cognition and Learning - numeracy	Assesses a pupil's ability with numbers, through exploring five strands of basic numeracy skills: identification, oral counting, value, object counting and language	Yes – number age and standardised score	Some skill required: would need a demonstration – filling booklet complicated	GL Assessment https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/sandwell-early-numeracy-test-sent/	Labour intensive but accurate number age and highlights areas for development. About 30 mins per child
Single Word Reading Test (SWRT)	Cognition and Learning - reading	Provides a measure of a child's word reading skills. Consists of 2 equivalent tests of 60 words. Designed for age 6- 16 years.	Standardised scores, Age equivalents and percentiles	No. The administrator's manual explains how to interpret results and gives case studies.	GL Assessment https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/single-word-reading-test-swrt/	A quick screening tool for monitoring purposes. Easy to administer and score.
Single Word Spelling Test (SWST)	Cognition and Learning - spelling	A group test designed to assess spelling attainment. Suitable for 6-14 years. Digital or paper format. Consists of graded spelling lists.	Yes Standardised scores, Age equivalents and percentiles	No. The administrator's manual explains how to interpret results, gives case studies and advice on next steps.	GL Assessment https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/single-word-spelling-test-swst/	The tests link to spelling lists that provide a bank of words with similar visual and phonological patterns.

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Verbal Reasoning and Non Verbal Reasoning	Cognition and Learning	Verbal Reasoning reveals how a pupil takes on board new information by measuring their ability to engage with language. Non-Verbal Reasoning involves no reading and so provides insight into the abilities of pupils who think more easily in images than words. It also measures the potential of pupils with limited reading skills including those with dyslexia, poorly motivated pupils, and EAL pupils.	Yes	No	GL Assessment https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/verbal-reasoning-vrt-and-non-verbal-reasoning-nvrt/	Very easy to use. EPs often ask for measure of non-verbal reasoning so it's a good one to do before a consultation.
Wide Range Achievement Test 4 (WRAT-4)	Measures basic academic skills	Word reading, sentence comprehension, spelling and math computation. 5 – 94 years age range.	Yes	Yes	GJ Robertson and GS Wilkinson (Authors) Available from: http://www.pearsonclinical.co.uk/Psychology/ChildCognitionNeuropsychologyandLanguage/ChildAchievementMeasures/wrat4/wide-range-achievement-test-fourth-edition-wrat4.aspx	
York Assessment of Reading for Comprehension (YARC)	Cognition and Learning - reading	Rigorous reading assessment used to identify difficulties with word recognition, reading fluency or reading comprehension	Yes Standardised scores, Age equivalents and percentiles	No. The administrator's manual explains how to interpret results, gives case studies and advice on next steps.	GL Assessment https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/york-assessment-of-reading-for-comprehension-yarc/	Scores are presented on a computer generated graph for easy visual interpretation.
Communication and Interaction						
Expressive Language	Speech and language	Assesses children's expressive language skills. Breaks down areas of need so you can see what to target first.	No, though it does give an age bracket.	Yes - Robert Robinson provides training	Through the training	Really useful course and assessment. Can

Assessment Tool (ELAT)				through Ash Grove Primary School		pinpoint issues to decide if a referral is needed, plus can inform teaching.
Universally Speaking - The Communication Trust	Speech, language and communication issues	Checklist of statements to RAG rate what children should achieve, at each stage of their development, from 5-11 years.	No	No	https://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/resources/resources/resources-for-practitioners/universally-speaking.aspx	A useful developmental guide with advice and top tips.
Wellcomm screening	Communication and Interaction	Assesses child's current level speech and language. Designed for early years (6 months - 6 years)	No but it is a very detailed report	Yes	GL Assessment https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/wellcomm/	
Social, Emotional and Mental Health						
The Boxall Profile	Social, emotional and mental health difficulties	Supports early identification, target setting, interventions and monitoring progress.	No	No. The administrator's manual explains how to interpret results, gives case studies and advice on next steps. Would advise reading the manual carefully.	https://nurturegroups.org/introducing-nurture/boxall-profile	SENCO: Provides a guide to select interventions and monitor target behaviour. SENCO: needs careful explanation
Strengths and difficulties questionnaire (SDQ)	Social, emotional and mental health difficulties strengths and difficulties	Checklist of statements for any age group. Breaks down the child or young person's strengths and weaknesses and highlights areas to work on in social skills groups etc. Can also be used as part of the process to refer to CAMHS.	No	No	Various online sources plus CAMHS. For example, available from: http://www.sdqinfo.com/	CAMHS require these for a referral; we use the numbered version in school rather than the boxes because

						it's easier to score. For parents, we always provide the one with boxes.
			Miscellaneous			
Detailed Assessment of Speed of Handwriting (DASH)	Speed of handwriting and handwriting difficulties - dysgraphia	Writing speed, free and copy speeds, identifies signs of dyspraxia or dysgraphia	Yes	Yes	A Barnett et al. (Authors) Available from: http://www.pearsonclinical.co.uk/AlliedHealth/PaediatricAssessments/PerceptualFineMotorDevelopment/DetailedAssessmentofSpeedofHandwriting(DASH)/DetailedAssessmentofSpeedofHandwriting(DASH).aspx	
Wide Range Intelligence Test (WRIT)	Intelligence test	Assessment of cognitive abilities that can be used with individuals ages 4 to 85 years. Assesses both verbal and nonverbal abilities, yielding a Verbal IQ and a Visual IQ, which generate a combined General IQ.	Yes	Yes	J Glutting et al. (Authors) Available from: http://www.pearsonclinical.co.uk/Education/Assessments/GeneralAbility/writ/wide-range-intelligence-test-writ.aspx	
Lucid - Recall	Working Memory - processing speed	Suitable for 7-16 years. Consist of 3 subtests, Phonological loop, Visuo-spatial sketchpad and Central executive function.	Standardised scores, Age equivalents and centiles	The administrator's manual explains how to interpret results and offers	GL Assessment https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/products/lucid-recall/	Computerised tests, more enjoyable format, results interpreted graphical. Cost

				advice on strategies to use.		implication as licence needs renewing annually.
Digit Memory Test	Working Memory	Recall of graded sequences of numbers repeated forwards and then backwards.	Standardised scores and percentiles	No	www.dyslexia-international.org/content/Informal%20tests/Digitspan.pdf	Very quick and easy to administer and score.
Performance Indicators for Valued Assessment and Targeted learning (PIVATS)	System to assess learning and set targets for pupils well below national expectations for their age.	Measures small steps in attainment, within the PIVATS structure. P scales broken down into small steps up to the revised national curriculum Y4 age related expectations.	No	No	www.lancashire.gov.uk/pivats	
WRAPS	Literacy	Word recognition and phonological screening – gives word recognition age	Yes	No		Quick and easy assessment tool
DRA	Literacy	Diagnostic reading Analysis – assesses decoding, fluency and comprehension	Yes	No		Quick and easy, spike profile