

Assistive Technology for Students with Specific Learning Disabilities - TextHELP 'Read&Write Gold'

This full-day seminar will provide professional development in assistive technology software for pupils with specific learning disabilities and will explore the topic of developing the use of this type of software in school.

The software used will be TextHELP 'Read&Write Gold' which is commonly recommended for pupils with specific learning disabilities such as dyslexia and dysgraphia. Other similar types of software will also be reviewed.

The seminar is available to both primary and post-primary teachers.

On completion of the course it is intended that participating teachers will:

- Understand the role of this type of assistive technology in helping pupils with specific learning disabilities such as dyslexia
- Gain hands-on experience and confidence with the software and learn its main features
- Develop the skills and knowledge to learn more about the functions of the technology independently after the course
- Be able to peer-support colleagues in the use of the technology and teach pupils the software as the need arises
- Be aware of the issues that can lead to the abandonment of assistive technology
- Explore the practicalities of managing this type of software and associated hardware, such as laptops and scanners, in school

Given the hands-on nature of the course, the maximum number of participants will be 12.

Participants will need basic computer skills such as: being able to open folders and programs; file documents; use right and left click on a mouse. However, knowledge of specialist software or advanced skills are not needed. Participants should bring a USB key if they want to take a copy of the training notes and a trial version of the software.

Time: Registration - 9.00 A.M. Finish - 4.00 P.M.

Refreshments and lunch will be provided.

Booking and Availability

Booking is essential as places are limited to 12 teachers and limited to one teacher per school. Participants will require permission from the Board of Management to attend. Typically, substitution

for this seminar will only be allowed to classroom teachers who have prime responsibility for students with a special educational need and if it is deemed absolutely essential by the principal.

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