



# Common questions from parents/carers about support for disabled learners and learners with additional support needs:

## Assessment Arrangements

**How do I find out what my child's school should be doing to assess my child's individual learning needs?**

In the first instance, you should discuss this with your child's school. You may also find other organisations useful, such as [Scottish Parent Teacher Council \(SPTC\)](#), [Dyslexia Scotland](#), [Enquire](#), the [National Deaf Children's Society \(NDCS\)](#) or [Enable](#). SQA is not involved in assessing the needs of individual learners.

**Who is responsible for ensuring that my child's needs have been fully assessed and that the arrangements put in place are reasonable and appropriate?**

It is the responsibility of the school and/or Local Authority to ensure that your child's needs have been assessed. Your child's school is responsible for putting the most suitable assessment arrangements in place.

SQA can provide guidance on what adjustments are reasonable and appropriate in National Qualifications. This is because SQA has the responsibility of making sure that the assessment arrangements put in place do not compromise the standard and integrity of the qualification. In other words, ensuring that the qualification your child achieves is of the same value as everyone else's.

**How does SQA know that the right adjustments are being made for my child?**

SQA has spoken with parents, teachers and disability organisations, and allows many different kinds of adjustments for learners. We have developed web pages to highlight what adjustments are allowed in National Literacy Units. You can find these at [www.sqa.org.uk/cfeliteracysupport](http://www.sqa.org.uk/cfeliteracysupport) (for teachers/lecturers) and [www.sqa.org.uk/literacysupportforlearners](http://www.sqa.org.uk/literacysupportforlearners) (for parents/carers and learners).

SQA has also held events for teachers, in partnership with CALL Scotland, to help them understand the support that can be used for learners in the National Literacy Units.

### **Can I be involved in deciding on the right adjustments for my child?**

The best people to decide what the right adjustments are for your child are those who know them and work with them every day; you, your child's teachers and any specialist support staff. Speak to your child's school about what adjustments can be made. The school will then discuss any proposed adjustments with SQA.

### **What can I do if I am unhappy with the assessment arrangements for my child?**

You should discuss this with your child's school and/or your Local Authority in the first instance. Should you require further information you can also contact [customer@sqa.org.uk](mailto:customer@sqa.org.uk)

## **Support in National Literacy Units**

### **Can speech recognition be used in a literacy assessment?**

Yes. Your child's school can provide information on speech recognition technologies that are available to your child.

### **Can word prediction software be used in a literacy assessment?**

Yes.

### **Are learners allowed to use the 'predict' and/or vocabulary sections of *Co-writer*?**

Yes.

### **What arrangements can be made if my child has complex disabilities, cannot use a keyboard and cannot speak clearly enough to use speech recognition?**

You should seek expert specialist advice from your school and/or Local Authority, or specialist support services.

### **What can I do if the appropriate assistive technology is not available in my child's school?**

You should discuss this with the school and Local Authority. There are many software resources that are free for schools to use.

### **Where can schools get advice and training for using technology in assessments?**

Schools will find their IT Technicians very supportive when seeking advice about what ICT they can use with learners. Many Local Authorities also have useful ICT support services.

Schools can also contact CALL Scotland, who provide advice and guidance on the use of technology in assessment. We are working closely with CALL Scotland to provide schools with further information on the use of ICT in reading and writing assessments.

Visit [www.callscotland.org](http://www.callscotland.org) for further information.

**How can I find out what reasonable adjustments are appropriate across all subjects; not just literacy?**

Your child's school can provide you with this information in the first instance. Further information can also be found on SQA's website at [www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements](http://www.sqa.org.uk/assessmentarrangements)