



Bristol Dyslexia Centre

Bristol Dyslexia Centre is a learning centre for children and adults with dyslexia, dyspraxia and other specific learning difficulties. It is situated adjacent to the Bristol Durdham Downs, with views towards Clifton Gorge.



Aims

We aim to restore self-confidence and self-reliance by improving reading, writing, spelling, numeracy and memory skills, so enabling students to realise their full potential.

Enrolment

An initial consultation is provided to assess the student's needs and facilitate the planning of an individual multi-sensory programme.

Each systematic programme is based on a compilation of proven, well-established methods and covers a wide range of techniques for learning to read, spell and write. The Centre also has its own structured, multi-sensory programme, which has proven to be highly successful.

Individual programmes are also developed to address dyspraxia (movement and language,) dyscalculia (mathematical difficulties) and other related specific problems. Attention is also directed towards perceptual disorders of visual, auditory, motor and memory function.

Sound thinking and study skills are also incorporated into the programme in order to improve organisational strategies, memory techniques and to develop thought processes.

All teachers have specialist qualifications. They also have the qualities of personality for sensitive teaching of students with specific learning difficulties.

Teaching Structure



Students are taught between the hours of 8.30am and 5.30pm from Monday to Friday, and each session generally lasts for 1 hour.

Students may be taught individually or in small groups. There are generally two in each group, but groups of three may sometimes be taught when pupils are of similar levels and needs. Groups of 6-10 can also be accommodated for touch-typing, study skills courses, specific G.C.S.E. and exam techniques. Literacy groups are also available for groups of adults.

Each student is taught according to his/her individual programme.

Interactive computer games, board games, study skills, specially developed work cards, and audio tapes are used to make lessons

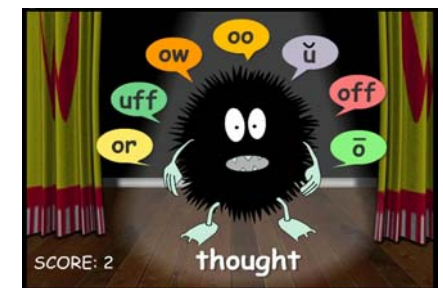
interesting, lively and personalised, so avoiding failure and restoring confidence.

Reading and spelling assessments are given every 6 months and the individual programme is correspondingly modified. Teachers give regular feedback to parents.

Arrangements for lesson times are planned carefully in order to minimise disruption of school, college or work place so it is advisable to bring the student's timetable when coming for an initial interview. Every endeavour is made to instigate and maintain contact with a child's school in the hope of giving support and feedback to student, teachers and parents.

The Centre currently supports students in over one hundred schools, universities, companies and businesses in Bristol, Somerset and Gloucestershire and also supports many adults at work.

Nessy Learning Programme



Bristol Dyslexia Centre uses its own special programme, **Nessy**, which has proved successful over the past 35 years and which is now available on CD. It has proved very effective in teaching dyslexics.

The Centre also has its own computer based study skills programme. **BrainBooster** benefits many senior students and is particularly helpful for students working towards examinations.

Full-Time School



Full time specialist education is available for children aged 6– 12 years. Pupils follow a full curriculum where the prime aim is to address the child's specific learning difficulties so all lessons are taught with multi-sensory methods.

The average class size is twelve and the pupil staff ratio is generally 5:1 but at times reduces to 1:1. The school is registered with the Department for Education and is staffed by specialist, fully qualified and experienced teachers. We achieve excellent results and gained an excellent Ofsted report. Children return happily and confidently to mainstream education after 11yrs.

Further details can be found at www.belgrave-school.org

Fees

Fees are payable by the first day of each term, either by cheque, cash or standing order. They are increased only to cover costs and are kept to a minimum. A term's notice is required before withdrawing a pupil from the school or centre or a term's fees must be paid in lieu.



Assessments

The Centre offers a range of assessments from short attainment tests to examination certificates to full educational psychologist reports. Further details are available on request.

The Directors

Mrs Pat Jones, has over 30 years experience at primary, senior and adult levels. She has worked in state schools (1963-76) as Head of Mathematics and Head of a Reading Centre, and in the independent sector where she was responsible for setting up the Dyslexia Department at Colston's School. Mrs Jones lectures widely and is regularly invited to talk to professionals throughout the City.

She has also the added experience of having brought up 2 happy, successful sons of her own, both with specific learning difficulties, and this gives her a sympathetic insight into parental worries.

Mike Jones brings a personal insight into dyslexic problems as he has overcome his own dyslexia and is now an experienced specialist teacher at the Centre. He has been responsible for designing and developing the innovative Nesy programme.

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