



Below is an overview of strategies you could adapt to support students who have Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD)

Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD)

Pupils with MLD tend to find learning in all areas of the curriculum difficult, and struggle with Literacy.

Main areas of difficulty:

- Lack of basic Literacy skills
- Poor working memory – difficulty processing, retaining and recalling information.
- Poor listening skills.
- Limited vocabulary.
- Short attention span.
- Difficulty following instructions.
- Difficulty understanding abstract ideas such as time.

Classroom strategies:

- Check the reading ages of text you use in class against the reading ages of your pupils – do they match up?
- Pre-prepare pupils by introducing key vocabulary before looking at text.
- Pair pupils with a 'reading buddy' so they can share reading and discuss the text together.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to practice specific comprehension skills, such as predicting, questioning, clarifying and summarising.
- Provide stimuli to help generate ideas in writing eg visuals, real-life objects, role play.
- Encourage pupils to draft writing independently on whiteboards before writing in books, so they develop confidence in their own writing ability.
- Provide a 'graphic organiser' eg writing frame, mind-map, flow diagram. Sticky notes that they can reorganise.
- Chunk down instructions and don't expect them to remember verbal instructions.
- Provide memory aids such as wordmats, numberlines.
- When introducing new content or ideas, especially abstract concepts, try to relate it to their own experiences, or build a narrative around it. Young people are more like to remember a story, especially if you can include any personal anecdotes.