



The challenges of online learning for students with SpLDs

When preparing online lessons and choosing tasks, please do bear in mind that learners with SpLDs may find particular challenges with online learning. I hope that the following table is helpful:

Difficulty	Has an impact on	Strategies to help
Slow and/or inaccurate reading	Accessing long text documents; Research tasks; Comprehension; Note-taking; Picking out main point;	Support text with images; Provide links to audio versions; Remind students to use Read Aloud or Text to Speech facility on documents and PPTs; Reduce reading load – provide summaries; Provide skeleton notes;
Visual disturbance	All reading tasks but particularly reading from screens	Change page colour of your documents and slides; Avoid busy slides and hand-outs; 1.5 line spacing; 12 pt sans serif font best (this is Century Gothic); Avoid underlining and italics;

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Weak working memory	<p>Planning tasks;</p> <p>Structuring writing;</p> <p>Following multi-step, complex instructions;</p> <p>Keeping track of a story, plot or argument;</p>	<p>Chunked-up instructions;</p> <p>Writing frames and paragraph planners;</p> <p>To do lists and task checklists;</p> <p>Model answers;</p> <p>Examples and samples;</p>
Organisation	<p>Creating schedules;</p> <p>Managing time;</p> <p>Prioritising</p>	<p>To do lists and task checklists;</p> <p>Explicit help to plan tasks and workload;</p> <p>Clear, mini-deadlines;</p> <p>Pinned post for group timetables and deadlines;</p>
Speed of processing	<p>Assimilating new information;</p>	<p>Clear, concise explanations that pupils can refer to often;</p> <p>Opportunities for over-learning;</p> <p>Lots of repetition;</p> <p>Practise, practise, practise;</p>
Slow speed of written work	<p>Offer a choice of ways for students to record their learning, eg: audio recording; comic strip; script; monologue; poster; graphic; ppt slides; drawing</p> <p>Consider a variety of assessment methods, eg: puzzles; quizzes; multi-choice (could use Google forms); wisdom walls; padlets</p>	
Attention difficulties	<p>Staying on task;</p> <p>Self-directed learning;</p>	<p>Study in short bursts;</p> <p>Regular breaks and rewards;</p>

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		Interactivity; Opportunities to move; Change of pace
Social & communication difficulties	Managing change; Chat tasks; Group work;	Routine where possible; Flag up changes to routine in advance; Be aware and pre-empt; Plan groups and pairs carefully

NB strengths too!

These learners may also exhibit particular strengths which will help them (and all of us) through these strange times:

- Creativity
- Stickability
- Sensitivity
- Motivation
- Problem solving
- Ability to visualise
- Big picture thinking skills