

## INFORMATION SHEET – AUTHORISATION FOR EXTERNAL LESSONS

Schools mostly co-operate with parents who want their children to receive external dyslexia support during the school day – such support helps the child to make progress and reduces the burden on the school's limited resources.

Occasionally (and usually for reasons unconnected with the child's progress) schools may be reluctant to release children for these lessons.

However, in such cases, parents have the support of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Code of Practice (CoP).

The CoP encourages the use of external specialists. The appropriate extract of the CoP (p102) is reproduced below:

### *Involving specialists*

*6.58 Where a pupil continues to make less than expected progress, despite evidence-based support and interventions that are matched to the pupil's area of need, the school should consider involving specialists, including those secured by the school itself or from outside agencies.*

*6.59 A school should always involve a specialist where a pupil continues to make little or no progress or where they continue to work at levels substantially below those expected of pupils of a similar age despite evidence-based SEN support delivered by appropriately trained staff. The pupil's parents should always be involved in any decision to involve specialists.*

*6.60 Where assessment indicates that support from specialist services is required, it is important that children and young people receive it as quickly as possible.*

The CoP does not specify that a diagnosis of dyslexia is required before external support can be given but it is good practice to obtain a diagnosis of dyslexia through an educational psychologist's assessment before seeking permission from school to take your child out for specialist support.

The full SEND CoP can be accessed through the following link:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/398815/SEND Code of Practice January 2015.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf)