

Assessment Information for Parents and Families

Your child's school has asked for an assessment by CALL Scotland. This leaflet outlines our work, tells you what we might do to support your child, and what your involvement might be. We welcome your views and opinions so please ask for more information at any time.

Our Pupil Assessment and Support Service

CALL Scotland provides an assessment and support service to local authorities across Scotland for children and young people with additional support needs who may benefit from technology to support their communication, literacy and learning. The purpose is to help identify the most suitable technology and strategies for a learner, such as computers, software/apps and communications aids. We also work closely with education staff and parents, to provide information, advice and training in the use of the equipment. Our funding comes from Scottish Government and Service Level Agreements with local authorities.

Our Assessment Team

The team combine many years of experience of using technology to help children and young people to communicate and learn more effectively. Each person has different specialist skills arising from their professional training and practical experience with a range of learners, whether teaching in the classroom or providing one-to-one support. Your child will be supported by one or two members of the team, but the full expertise and support of any member may be called upon.



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Scotland, Engineer
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Technology and
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Teacher



Joanna Courtney
Specialist Speech
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Therapist



Shirley Lawson
Assistive
Technology and
Additional Support
Needs Teacher



Kirsteen Steven
Assistive Technology
and Additional
Support Needs
Teacher



Craig Mill
Assistive
Technology
Advisor

What will we do in the assessment?

We will ask staff who work with your child to send background information, this could be examples of work, photos or videos. We will then arrange our assessment, which could either be in person at school or online. In this we will consider his/her skills and needs, the class and home environment, the learning tasks, and how technology can help. We will liaise with education staff and with any others involved, such as the Speech and Language Therapist, Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist.

What arrangements are made to involve you?

Referral for assessment by the team must be agreed by parents. We value highly your knowledge of your child and welcome your contribution and involvement. You may be invited to contribute information before assessment, for example: photos or videos, or details of what your child likes doing or things he/she finds challenging at home. We will also ask you to sign and return a photo/video permission form. You will be informed of the date and time of the assessment once it has been arranged. If it is possible for you to attend the assessment, whether online or in person, we welcome your participation. The assessment may involve several meetings or sessions, especially if we are supporting your child online.



What happens after the assessment?

Following the assessment, we will write a report and send it to the person who made the referral. They are responsible for making sure that you receive the key information. As our assessment is not a one-off event, we support you, your child and education staff to implement our suggestions and recommendations, and rely on everyone to work together. Our part may include lending and adapting appropriate trial equipment or delivering training. School's part is to implement the recommendations on a day-to-day basis. Your part may be supporting your child to use the technology at home to consolidate any new learning.

Equipment loans

If technology has a role to play, we may loan equipment to the school for your child to try out for a number of weeks or possibly a term. Sometimes, but not always, he/she will bring this equipment home; if so, instructions will be provided. We will train staff and parents as necessary in the use of equipment.

Purchase of equipment

If the equipment we suggest turns out to be useful, then the school/education authority (sometimes in conjunction with other services, e.g. Health) will buy it and make it available on long-term loan for your child. There is no cost to parents, however the equipment remains the property of the funder.



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