24th April, 2017

The West Sussex Dyslexia Aware School Award (DASA) 2017-2019

Dear Colleague

The West Sussex Dyslexia Aware School Award is a whole school award designed to raise staff knowledge and understanding of pupils with specific literacy difficulties and improve practice for those pupils throughout a setting. It is generally recognised that good practice for pupils with specific literacy difficulties is good practice for pupils with other learning needs.

The award reflects current philosophy: all teachers are teachers of SEN; all teachers are responsible for setting suitable learning targets and monitoring progress towards those targets; parents/carers should be closely involved at all stages. It also supports the promotion of ‘literacy across the curriculum’.

Delegates from last year’s cohort commented:

- “Thank you for 3 full days of learning. I learnt so much and you recommended several books/references to help further my understanding of this subject. It made me question how we support the children in our school and I know that there is so much more that we can do now, through a whole school approach.”

- “It has been of great benefit to attend the training and participate in the award for free. With tight budgets and priorities often directed in different areas of provision and practice it is not always easy to access CPD opportunities when there is a cost attached. I certainly wouldn’t have been able to participate if this had been the case, so I am very grateful that this programme continues to be funded as I do believe that it will benefit the children in my school whether I achieve the award within the timeframe, or not. We will certainly have moved our practice forward as a result of it (and have started to do so already).”
“I thoroughly enjoyed the training and it has enthused and empowered me. Thank you both very much.”

Schools not currently holding the award are invited to join the next cohort of Primary and Secondary schools.
Course to run: Autumn 2017 - Summer 2019

Please note: for schools wishing to participate, the West Sussex Dyslexia Aware Working Group would recommend identifying time for training staff in school at the point of application.

Yours sincerely

TERESA HAYNES and ANNE BOUET

West Sussex Dyslexia Aware Working Group
Learning & Behaviour Advisory Team