

Alternatives to Writing

Writing is a complex process and for pupils who find some or all the skills associated with writing a challenge, there are times when it is appropriate for pupils to communicate their thoughts, knowledge and ideas using methods other than formal writing.

Mind Maps

Mind Maps can be created by pupils to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of a topic in an organised way; they are also useful tools to aid revision.

A short video explaining Mind Maps can be found here:

<https://youtu.be/wLWV0XN7K1g>

Mind Maps can be created by hand or digitally using online resources such as:

<https://www.mindmup.com>

Story Board

Stories, diaries, instructions and explanations such as what happened in a science experiment or an historical event can be recorded within a story board.

Pupils can draw the pictures first, then complete a few sentences to accompany the picture.

Templates for story boards can be found at:

<https://www.teachwire.net/teaching-resources/blank-storyboard-templates-various-portrait-and-landscape-styles>

Voice Recorders

Voice recorders can be used to create an audio recording where pupils dictate what they would have written. This can be an ideal way for pupils to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding in subjects such as science, history and geography. Most tablets have free voice recorder apps available such as AudioNote 2 (*iPad*) or Easy Voice Recorder (*android*).

Speech to Text

Speech to text software and apps enable a pupil to dictate their writing which is then turned into typed text. It does take some perseverance in the initial stages of set up whilst the pupil learns how to use it effectively. These programmes and apps work best when there is no background noise.

Further information on using speech to text with Microsoft word can be found at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5abApZ9_mLI

Suggested speech to text iPad apps can be found at:

<https://www.callscotland.org.uk/common-assets/cm-files/posters/ipad-apps-for-learners-with-dyslexia.pdf>

Suggested speech to text android apps can be found at:

<https://www.callscotland.org.uk/downloads/posters-and-leaflets/android-apps-for-learners-with-dyslexia/>

Word Processing

Typing written work provides support to pupils who have difficulties with how to organise their writing, spelling and handwriting. It is always recommended that pupils develop their typing skills to enable them to use word-processing programmes and apps efficiently. Being able to touch type is a life skill that will support pupils in adulthood.

Free touch typing activities can be found at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf2f9j6/articles/z3c6tfr>

www.typingclub.com

When using a tablet or iPad for word processing, pupils should be using a separate keyboard and not the on-screen keyboard, which is designed for short periods of typing such as typing a web address.