

# Cognition and learning

- Students may struggle with developing knowledge and understanding of literacy, and may find it difficult to remember letters phonics, blends etc.
- Students may struggle with developing knowledge and understanding of numeracy, and may find it hard to remember symbols number facts and mathematical methods.
- Students may avoid classwork, for example by wandering around, fiddling and chatting or any other avoidance strategies.
- Students may be anxious around classwork and homework. Homework may need to be differentiated, and students may need help with understanding what they are required to do.
- They may struggle with recording their learning.
- Students may not progress at the expected rate and even seem to lose learning.
- Consider checking for possible hearing/visual/language/motor skills/memory difficulties which could be inhibiting learning.
- Consider the possibility of dyslexia and dyscalculia, and ask the school if the student can join in with any ongoing groups for literacy, spelling, phonics, writing or mathematics.
- They may have difficulty absorbing new concepts.
- Students may become reliant on adult or peer help.



## Some ideas to try

- Take steps to reduce anxiety around learning; break learning down into smaller units that are achievable and encourage independent work that they can do by themselves.
- Revisit and consolidate learning.
- Use kinaesthetic/visual learning approaches and always make use of the student's own learning style.
- Pre-tutor vocabulary for science and other technical subjects.
- Generalise learning to other contexts - create and consolidate links.
- Discourage dependency on adults and peers. Encourage independent working wherever possible.
- Build confidence and celebrate successes.

