

## **Dane Court Grammar School Policy on Coloured Overlays and Paper Provision**



### **Introduction.**

This policy on the provision of coloured overlays and paper is reviewed and updated annually.

### **Purpose of the policy.**

This policy details how the school and exam centre manages and administers support and materials both in the classroom and in examinations for those pupils who require access to coloured overlays and papers.

### **Principles for pupils requiring Coloured Overlays and Paper.**

Dane Court recognises that there is mixed medical and scientific consensus about the existence of syndromes or conditions relating to “visual stress” and that research findings vary in terms of the measurable benefits of the use of coloured overlays, coloured paper or filtered lenses to those who experience difficulties with reading.

However, in line with our ethos to support our students to reach their full academic potential and make a successful transition to adulthood we believe we should acknowledge the symptoms of such a condition and try to provide students with support and resources related to it.

There are many different options when it comes to getting help with visual stress. The diagnostic assessment/treatment of visual stress and other visual processing difficulties takes place within a commercial, profit-led market and as such providers of these services dictate their own charges. Our staff are not qualified to diagnose medical, ophthalmological or mental health conditions and we understand parents may wish to seek assistance from trained professionals.

### **The use of Overlays and Coloured Paper.**

Where a screening/diagnostic assessment by a suitably qualified professional results in a profile consistent with visual stress we will make use of this information in guiding how we best accommodate a student’s needs.

If parents opt for a private screening/diagnostic assessment for visual stress from a professional, we require a copy of any findings for our own evidence. We provide a fixed range of overlays however parents may opt to provide alternative colours if they wish.

If the student goes on to purchase filtered glasses, then they will be independent and not require further support.

We require evidence of a successful trial period with these overlays before paper provision is put into place. This trial will be in place for 6-12 weeks. During this time, the student will be expected to take responsibility for bringing and using their overlay, when required, as normal equipment for lessons and internal examinations as necessary, like a pair of glasses.

The use of overlays will be monitored by teachers and the SEN department and its impact recorded.

On completion of a successful trial period we will offer the student the option of continuing with their overlay and/or the provision of cream paper which has also been shown to help by reducing glare.

#### **Accommodating Coloured Overlays/Paper in examinations.**

No special access arrangements are required from the exam boards apart from IB but the use of an overlay or coloured paper must be agreed by the SENCo and Examinations Officer. In all cases, the use of overlays/cream paper in exams would need to be accompanied by evidence of a screening or diagnostic assessment and a successful trial with a coloured overlay. This must also reflect the normal working practice of the candidate.

Reviewed annually on publication of updated JCQ regulations and guidance contained in the publications Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments and Instructions for Conducting Examinations.

Lucy Holmes  
Senco  
Dane Court Grammar School

Updated September 2020