Promoting the expertise of schools to meet the needs of learners with specific learning difficulties through advisory work, training and exemplar teaching

Processing speed checklist

Processing speed difficulties are common in learners with specific learning difficulties.

Processing speed is the speed at which we take in information, make sense of it and start to respond. Learners with processing speed difficulties can find it harder to retrieve previously learned information automatically and fluently.

Checklist of possible processing speed difficulties in the classroom

Indicator	Rarely	Sometimes	Frequently
Pupil puts up hand but slow to produce answer or can appear to forget answer			
Answers can appear to be 'at the tip of the tongue' but difficulty finding the correct word / answer			
Can appear overwhelmed when presented with a lot of information			
Difficulties keeping up with oral instructions in class			
Can't make decisions quickly			
Struggles with completing tasks under timed conditions			
Struggles to follow quick moving conversations			
Does not engage actively in class discussions			
Decoding is slow and effortful			
Reading comprehension is weak			
Appears anxious / frustrated / tired as the day goes on			
Inaccurate or slow copying from the board			