

Making Literacy Accessible

Large print

What does this mean?

Children with vision impairment will often need visual materials to be produced in large print to give them equal access to the curriculum. Large print is generally considered to be 16 to 18 point size.

Implications for learning

With enlarged and modified resources, the student will be more able to independently access the lessons. However even with large print, the student is likely to have

- a slower reading speed than a fully sighted peer
- difficulties with scanning if the print size is very large and so the books are large
- a need for extra time

Ways to help

- Modification of an electronic copy of any text, especially if it is already in a Word format, is usually quickest.
- Use clear print. Minimum point size is 14 (equivalent to size Arial 14).
- Use clear font style eg Arial. Avoid highly stylised typefaces.
- Avoid italics and underlining of text wherever possible. Avoid upper casing. Capital letters give less variation and so are more difficult to read quickly.
- Keep design/layout simple and clear. Break text up into short paragraphs.
- Text should always be aligned to the left margin. Centred text is unclear and avoid setting text over an image.
- Any enlargement should be onto A4 size and **not** A3 to reduce difficulties in scanning.
- Black on white or black on yellow are generally clearest, but individual preferences vary.
- Paper with a matt finish is preferable to glossy surfaces to reduce glare.
- Any boxes for writing need to be larger.
- Everyone has individual needs, so check what works best for the student.

Other Resources

- RNIB Bookshare
- RNIB Library – giant print books (N24)
- Guide Dogs - CustomEyes Books
- National Accessible Library
- Project Gutenberg
- [W: berkshiresensoryconsortium.co.uk](http://www.berkshiresensoryconsortium.co.uk)