## Using IT to Support Pupils with Literacy Difficulties

Also see the Literacy Team Recommended Apps for iPads leaflet and the Recommended Apps for Secondary Pupils leaflet.

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### IPhone/iPad

#### *Text to Speech

Go into settings – General - Accessibility – Speech – Speak selection – slide the button to on.

You can also adjust the speaking rate and change the voice.  This will allow pupils to select text on websites and hear this read back to them or in apps such as Notes to listen back to work they have typed or dictated.

#### Pages and Notes apps (free)

Both allow text to be dictated.  If Speak Selection* has been turned on then this text can also be highlighted and listened to, to aid the editing process.

#### Voice Memo (free)

The Voice Memo app allows pupils to record their sentences and listen back to these as they are writing them down or could be used as evidence of their understanding as they can be saved.  Pupils can also record themselves reading text and then listen back to this or share it with others.

#### Dictation Pro – Yearly (£12.49)

This is a speech to text app which changes text already typed in response to additional words said so works well at normal speech rate.  You can also edit text written with the predictive text keyboard and copy the text easily into another document such as Clicker docs.   The font can also be enlarged.

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### Chrome

#### Speech to text (free)

Chrome has a free in built speech to text dictation feature.  Type in 'dictation.io' into the Chrome search bar and it will load this.  You need to make sure the program can access the microphone then you can dictate text and save or share the file.

#### Text to Speech (free)

1. In the top right corner, click on the 3 vertical dots and select Settings
2. At the bottom, select Advanced.
3. In the 'Accessibility' section, select Manage accessibility features.
4. Under '**text-to-speech**', turn on Enable Select to Speak.  * Or search in the Chrome store for a free text to speech add on such as Natural Reader or Select and Speak.
5. Then when you are browsing websites in Chrome you can highlight text and right click to hear this text read to you or click on the play button in the top right of the toolbar

**PDFs**

PDFs have a read aloud feature which will read the document. Click on the three horizontal dots on the right hand side of the top of the document, then select 'Read Aloud'.

**Word**

On the very top toolbar in 'More Commands' then 'All Commands', 'Speak' can be added which means that any text highlighted in Word is read out loud. Good for listening back to work to check for sense, punctuation and composition. If books are downloaded as PDFs or Word files these can then be listened to by children if the class texts are above their decoding ability – see RNIB Bookshare website.

**Office365 - Word** – (An Office365 login and internet connection are required to access these tools)

Speech to Text

There is a dictation button on the right hand side of the top tab which can be selected to dictate straight into Word.

Text to Speech

Select 'View' on the toolbar and select 'Immersive Reader' this will show the text enlarged and will read the text aloud.

See the right hand side of the screen for the tools where pupils can:

Alter the text size and the **colour of the background.**

Search for adjectives, nouns etc. and these can be highlighted in the text.

- Books can be downloaded as word documents using the RNIB Bookshare website if the school has an account which is free to set up. These could then be read/listened to using the Immersive Reader tool.

**Kindle**

On Kindle e-Readers, iOS, Fire OS, Android, and PC you can choose the OpenDyslexic font, adjust page margins, adjust line spacing, and select right ragged text rendering.

Immersion Reading allows you to read a Kindle eBook and listen to its professionally narrated Audible companion Audiobook – at the same time. It provides real-time highlighting.

The following devices support Immersion Reading: Kindle App for iOS, Kindle App for Android, Fire Tablets 2nd Gen and above.

**Android**

Google Docs (free) – Can change font size and save as Word Document and PDF. Easy to share between devices. Can use microphone to dictate text.

Google Keep (free) – Notes app which you can dictate text into and organise information into different lists/categories.