

Visual Stress/Meares Irlen

A new approach from Virtual School Sensory Support (VSSS) in Norfolk

Visual stress is thought to be the most common visual reason for reading difficulties and describes unpleasant visual symptoms when viewing text, especially for long periods of time. Alternative names may be used to describe this condition including, **Meares-Irlen Syndrome, Irlen Syndrome** and **Scotopic Sensitivity Syndrome**.

The prevalence of visual stress has been reported as occurring in 5-20% of the population (British Dyslexia Association 2012), many of which suffer unknowingly or may be misdiagnosed. In people with dyslexia this is thought to be higher at around 35-40% (Wilkins 2003).

Assessments

From 01 September 2017, VSSS will be offering assessment for Visual Stress/Meares Irlen Syndrome as a Traded Service to schools and settings for children and young people.

The cost of an assessment will be £195.00 and will include a single visit from a Teacher for Visual Impairment, a written report and verbal feedback to the referrer. A referral form is available from:-

Virtual School Sensory Support
Sensory Support Centre
148 Woodside Road
Norwich NR7 9QL

Tel: 01603 704040

Website: <http://vsss.virtual-school.org.uk>

Training Sessions

In addition, VSSS will deliver two half-day training sessions each academic year to support staff in settings to assess in-house. One training event will be held in Norwich, the other in King's Lynn, dates and venues below:

Venue	Date	Time	Cost	Code
Norwich PDC	14 September 2017	9am to 12pm	£75	VSS-0917-T001
King's Lynn PDC	2 October 2017	1pm to 4pm	£75	VSS-1017-T001

These training events will be designed to enable settings to carry out their own assessments and the assessment materials will be supplied by VSSS at cost.