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Raising attainment with Text Readers and Ceitidh

Ideally, we hope that all learners will learn to read, but unfortunately, some will always struggle either as a result of, for example, visual impairment, dyslexia, or learning difficulties. Slow or poor reading is a huge barrier to accessing the curriculum and learners who do have reading difficulties are at an enormous disadvantage in school.

Computer text readers, or text-to-speech, offers one way for these learners to overcome their difficulties with reading.

Computer readers can also be very helpful for students who are learning a second language, both to support reading and also to support the writing process.

This sheet summarises some of the main ways to support learners using computer text readers.

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| Supportive Practice | Your notes – which learners would benefit; what technologies will you use. |
| Improve access to the curriculum by reading:   * web sites; * curriculum materials from staff; * Textbooks from the Books for All Scotland Database. |  |
| Improve performance in literacy assessments and examinations by using a computer reader. |  |
| Improve writing by:   * proofreading with computer reader; * supporting spelling with word banks; * supporting spelling with word prediction. |  |
| Improve learning using interactive digital resources:   * Clicker 7. |  |
| Improve communication, for learners with communication support needs using voice output communication aids and software. |  |

# Technologies to support Literacy in Gaelic

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| **Ceitidh**, the Scottish Gaelic computer voice  Image result for ceitidh voice | Free from <http://www.thescottishvoice.org.uk/home/> |
| **Computer text readers**  See <http://www.callscotland.org.uk/info+rmation/text-to-speech/>      Image result for • Orato | * WordTalk, free  <http://www.wordtalk.org.uk/> * NaturalReader 13, free <http://www.callscotland.org.uk/common-assets/cm-files/files/naturalreader.exe> * Orato, free <http://www.callscotland.org.uk/information/text-to-speech/orato/> * Ivona MiniReader, free (No longer available but installed on many schoo computers already.) * Microsoft Office Speak Button, free <http://www.callscotland.org.uk/blog/speak-text-in-microsoft-word-2010/> * Learning Tools for OneNote, free <https://www.onenote.com/learningtools> |
| **Penfriend XL**  Word predictor, computer reader and spellchecker. | * Penfriend XL, from £95 single, £400 primary, £600 secondary site <http://www.penfriend.biz/pf-addit-lan.html> * Gaelic lexicons from <http://www.penfriend.biz/download-lexicons.html> |
| **Clicker 7 literacy toolkit.**  Word processor, mind-mapper, spellchecker, computer reader, word prediction, interactive activities.  Image result for clicker 7 gaelic | * Clicker 7 £250 single; various licences available. <http://www.cricksoft.com/uk/products/clicker/> |
| **Widgit Online with Dual Language**  Create symbol flashcards, timetables, stories and a lot more. | * <http://www.widgit.com/products/widgit-online/> |