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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.
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| 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.
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| Improve learning using interactive digital resources:* Clicker 7.
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| 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 voiceImage 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/](http://www.callscotland.org.uk/info%2Brmation/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>
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| **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>
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| **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/>
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| **Widgit Online with Dual Language**Create symbol flashcards, timetables, stories and a lot more. | * <http://www.widgit.com/products/widgit-online/>
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