



Dyslexia
Scotland

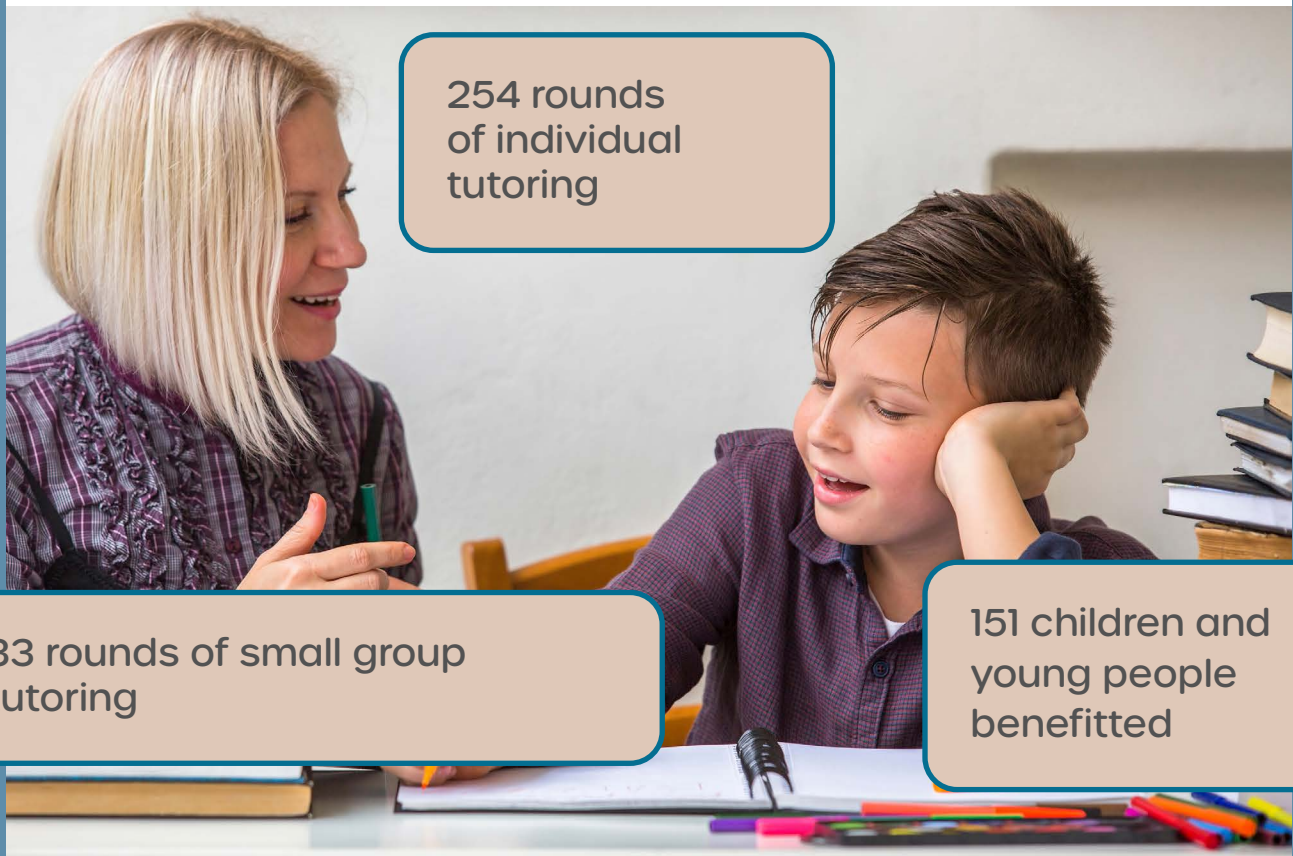
**Sean Connery
Foundation
Tutor Bursary Fund**

Introduction

In 2021, the Sean Connery Foundation pledged Dyslexia Scotland £60,000 to pay for free tutoring for children and young people with dyslexia to be carried out by approved Dyslexia Scotland specialist tutors. In 2022, the Foundation made a commitment to donate a further £20,000 to this Bursary Fund.

To date the fund has paid for 254 rounds of individual tutoring to 129 children/young people. It has also funded 39 rounds of small group funding in schools for 22 children/young people. Tutoring has taken place across Scotland. The total cost for this is £73,526.

The Tutor Bursary Fund is administered by Dyslexia Scotland through a relatively simple online application for parents/carers. Dyslexia Scotland oversees the applications and the funds are awarded to families who would struggle to pay for this themselves. Children/young people may receive up to 3 rounds of funding (usually around 10 hours each).



254 rounds
of individual
tutoring

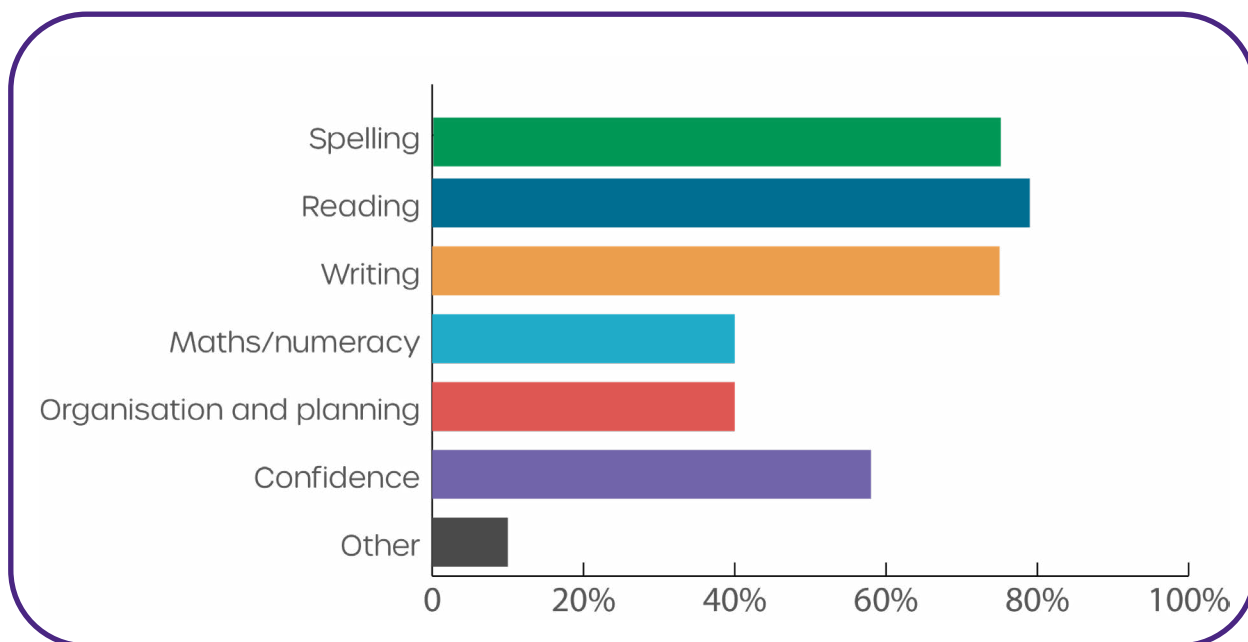
33 rounds of small group
tutoring

151 children and
young people
benefitted

Who has it helped and how?

The average age of children/young people benefitting is 12., with the youngest being 6 and the oldest 18.

The table below shows the areas identified by parents/carers as the ones in which their child received the most help.



Under 'other', parents/carers mentioned:

- Understanding dyslexia
- Going through exam past papers
- Social and communication
- Revision skills.

The following areas were identified by tutors as benefits of the funding which would not otherwise have happened. The headings are accompanied by quotes from parents/carers.

Improved confidence

"These tutoring sessions have been immeasurable, the difference they have made to my son's confidence to see himself as a learner is unbelievable, she has helped not only with teaching to read but overall confidence."

"Her confidence is so much better. My daughter was having panic attacks in certain class situations and too scared to answer or ask questions at school or her tutor when they first met."

Improved literacy

"It taught him strategies to overcome his dyslexia. He has just got an A for Nat 5 English and without tutoring I am not sure if he would have passed."

"This tutoring was hugely beneficial to my daughter. Our tutor took the time to get to know her and truly understood her needs. Using a tailored approach she has brought my daughter on so much further than any other support she receives elsewhere. Her confidence to try and read has grown as well as her retention."

"My son has received significant support during his sessions. He finds the school environment very stressful and becomes over-stimulated resulting in challenging behaviour. The one-to-one sessions in a relaxed setting allowed him to be able to engage with the tasks that the tutor organised. The tutor has a great understanding and can allow brain breaks when required. My son had very low self-esteem when we first met her, but she has completely changed this and given him the confidence to read."

Increased resilience

"His confidence, spelling ability and reading have all improved over the last year. He has actually developed an interest in words, grammar and patterns he notices. I think the most valuable support has been having someone who understands him, encourages him to believe in himself and has the skills to support him with the areas that he really struggles with. It's definitely helped make a big improvement in his mental health."

Attained better at school than predicted

"Through the tutor's support and encouragement my son has gone from being a school refuser to someone who is sitting 8 National 5s and getting great results. He would not be here without the tutor's help and as a single mother I couldn't have afforded this on my own."

Is more optimistic for their future

"The child then feels seen, heard, understood and supported and without the funding this may not have happened or not for the duration the funding has allowed."

"It has been a bright spot in a really difficult season of family life."



Feedback from parents and carers to the Sean Connery Foundation

"What the Sean Connery Foundation is doing to support tutoring is incredible. My son would not have progressed to the level he has without individual tutoring for his severe dyslexia. The financial strain and to know that the burden can be lifted at times is incredibly helpful and very much appreciated. We feel very privileged to be able to get this support."

"As a parent whose child has benefited from the service that Dyslexia Scotland provided, I am genuinely thankful for the positive impact Dyslexia Scotland has had on our family's life. Please continue your remarkable efforts, knowing that your work is making a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and families facing the challenges of dyslexia."

"It's a wonderful scheme and truly helps with results. I cannot overestimate the positive impact on my child. Dyslexia Scotland has been very helpful and extremely prompt with assistance in applying for and receiving funding."

"I am just so grateful for this fund and the support that we have received. It's had a huge impact on my child's life so far and as a single parent, I just wouldn't have been able to afford it especially with the cost of living increases. Thank you so much."

"This funding is changing lives as the potential for people with dyslexia and learning difficulties is incredible! Without the support our communities would miss these talented and inspiring voices, changing the world. Thank you!"

"I am incredibly grateful for this. It is truly life altering for my son."

"Absolutely wonderful work we will be forever grateful."



Feedback from tutors

"Pupils who could not afford tutoring have benefited immensely and have been given life-long skills which schools have failed to provide. As support in schools is now being cut, the quiet, struggling pupil is frequently forgotten in large disruptive classrooms. Being able to read and write is one of life's necessities, and progress in this is giving the dyslexic pupil confidence and strategies in how to cope with life."

"The funders should know that the children and young people I have supported have benefited hugely from the funding enabling them to have specialist support which they wouldn't otherwise have been able to access. If this is replicated across Scotland with other tutors, then it will have made a huge impact on learners' ability and confidence."

"Just to say a HUGE thank you. The bursaries enable young people to access the support they need when they need it. Because they can apply more than once, learning is continuous. It ensures tuition is for every child, regardless of parental income. Thank you for making a difference to the lives of our young people."

"I am sure there are many families who don't pursue tutoring due to their financial circumstances/priorities. I feel particularly sorry for families with more than 1 child who are not accessing and/or who need to stop tutor sessions due to costs. Cost definitely a barrier for many families."

"This fund has the potential to change lives for people who have a substantial double disadvantage in society."

"Thank you for your generosity. My student's confidence in herself and her abilities has grown deeply within herself. She is no longer afraid. A priceless gift."

Feedback on the application process

"It is straightforward and they got back to us quickly."

"Our contact at Dyslexia Scotland was helpful and prompt every step of the way."

"A relief to not have to jump through hoops and explain the situation. It's simple - we needed help to ensure our daughter reaches her potential and in turn give back to society. We are so very grateful to our tutor and yourselves."

Unforeseen benefits

"It was good for my tutee to have one to one time with an adult who could also talk to her about cultural issues."

"My tutee's Mum is now seeking help for her own dyslexic difficulties in literacy."

Summary and next steps

Dyslexia Scotland currently holds a remaining £6474. of funding. We are continuing to receive and approve applications, focussing on those most in need or who have not received funding.

We have been delighted to be able to offer this service to families who need it more than ever. As is evident from the feedback, it has been incredibly well received by tutors, parents/carers and children and young people with dyslexia and has had a tangible and lasting impact.



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