

LEARNING SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Currently, it is widely known that children who experience difficulties in the school, do not study less than their peers, nor are they less smart, however they experience specific learning difficulties and they thus need a different way and framework in order to be able to learn.

During the last decade, research related to learning difficulties, their diagnosis and intervention, have all gone through great development. This is due to the increasing number of learning difficulties, as well as to the fact that they are now accepted as a valid problem that needs to be addressed. Intervention is targeted towards specific students, but is also addressed to the teacher, the school system and the family. It is only through collaboration and partnership of all parts, that intervention can be promoted.

Our school, being sensitive towards addressing the needs of all students and their families, implements a supportive system network for students with learning and school adjustment difficulties. Realizing that, in order to reach this goal, it is imperative to ensure collaboration of specialists from a variety of disciplines, this learning support programme entails participation of our school psychologists, special education teachers-learning support teachers, classroom teachers as well as parents.

The Learning Support Programme for students with learning difficulties offers services that are addressed to the entire student body of Pre-PreK through Elementary Grade 6 (Nipiagogio-Demotiko) and consists of the following guidelines/levels:

Level A

- Inquiry and informal assessment of possible learning difficulties that may appear, administered by the Department of Psychoeducational support of the school.
- Organization and implementation of informative lectures related to learning difficulties issues addressed to the parents.
- Collaboration with the teachers regarding specific students with possible learning difficulties.
- Preventative speech pathology assessment for Kindergarten and 1st Grade elementary students.

Level B

In the case that learning difficulties are detected, the Department of Psychoeducational support of the school offers:

- Individual emotional support to the student aiming towards him/her realizing, understanding and accepting his/her difficulty in order to reinforce the student's self esteem.
- Collaboration with the teachers regarding the student's support in the classroom.
- Information to the teachers related to the scientific research and intervention strategies of learning difficulties in the classroom.
- Consultation to the teachers by providing learning support strategies guidance towards paper correction techniques, differentiated student exams, teacher's intervention that promotes the development of the

student's time management skills and an optimum organization of the class layout.

- Consultation and collaboration with the parents of each student with learning difficulties in the following ways:
 - a. Presentation of the characteristics of the learning difficulty and its cause, in order for parents to understand it and accept it.
 - b. Briefing of the parents regarding the school's stand to learning difficulty issues.
 - c. Parental guidance as to ways to assist their child with its homework and generally with its organization skills.
- Collaboration with the centres-special educators that provide external (non-school based) services.

LEVEL C*

In the case that there is a need for further exploration of the learning difficulty, the school provides, with formal parental consent, individualized support services to students. These include:

- Formal assessment with a full battery of psychometric tests.
- Psychoeducational intervention offered to the student during regular school hours in the following ways:
 - 1a. Individually: learning intervention provided by experienced special educators/learning support teachers, twice a week, throughout the full academic year
 - b. In the classroom: students' observation and support while in their classroom and collaboration with the teachers
 2. Group: when the student needs can allow this, student support is offered as part of a group for creative writing and expression, once a week, for one trimester (ex. A group of five students of the same grade is formed for creative writing, expression, play and arts as means to intervene to the learning difficulty)
- Provision of a range of individualized intervention services off regular school hours (intervention, counseling services, play therapy).

*The services of Level C are optional and charged accordingly. Onset of the program is set for October 31st.

Full formal assessment	€280
Individualized intervention services during regular school hours	€125/ per month
Creative writing and expression group	€60/ per month
Individualized intervention services off regular school hours	Prices set upon communication with specialists.

Admission applications to the services of Level C are accepted promptly by the Department of Counseling and Psychoeducational Support of the school.