

Memory

Students can sometimes find retaining and recalling information given in the classroom difficult. Memory difficulties can occur on their own or alongside a language or learning difficulty.

Memory difficulties can impact on the student in the following ways:

- Appear that they don't understand instructions, when actually they may just not remember.
- Be unable to follow through with the work expected of them without support.
- Difficulty sitting still (they may appear to "fidget") and using appropriate eye contact.
- Use strategies to mask their difficulties, e.g. avoid activities that require good memory skills.
- Have low confidence/self-esteem and not participate in answering questions/group work.
- Have difficulties organising themselves and their self-learning e.g. homework.
- Impact on how well they can revise for exams and complete exams.

Useful strategies to help students succeed in the classroom:

- ⇒ Reduce visual and auditory distractions, use good seating arrangements e.g. putting the student at the front, use peers to support.
- ⇒ Break instructions into short, simple chunks. Give one task at a time.
- ⇒ Allow students to highlight key information in written texts
- ⇒ Encourage the students to repeat back what they have been asked to do.
- ⇒ Give students additional time to process and respond to questions/instructions.
- ⇒ Encourage note writing, making to do lists, using a diary and putting post it notes on work.
- ⇒ Write instructions on the board and highlight / underline key words
- ⇒ Use other visual reminders – photos / symbols / colour coding, e.g. writing in coloured pens can help them to remember the information
- ⇒ Using mind maps/word webs to summarise the topic or help them revise for exams



- ⇒ Repeat instructions where needed
- ⇒ Consider using of a Dictaphone or audio/video recorder when important information is given, for the student to listen back to/watch back in the lesson or at home
- ⇒ Encourage students to ask if they have not understood/remembered and need something repeating, or provide instruction sheets that the student can take if they need reminding of what to do