



# NORTH RIGTON

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

## A Quick Guide to Working Memory

### What is Working Memory?

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Working memory is the temporary storage system that we use when we need to hold information in our heads briefly, but which we then have no further use for e.g. multiply 24 by 15. It is like a mental jotting pad or workspace. Some students can only hold a limited amount of information here.

### Implications for a pupil

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Warning signs of working memory failures:

- incomplete recall
- failure to follow instructions
- place-keeping errors and task abandonment

### How to help – top tips

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1. Identify heavy loads caused by lengthy sequences and demanding mental processing activities.
2. Reduce material to be remembered.
3. Increase meaningfulness and familiarity of material.
4. Restructure complex tasks.
5. Repeat important information (in different ways).
6. Encourage use of memory aids e.g. personalised dictionaries, multiplication grids, diagrams/illustrations, colour coding, highlighting.
7. Use visual, auditory, and kinaesthetic activities and cues.
8. Provide help sheet/top tips with simplified written guidance
9. Mnemonics e.g. said = Sally Ann is dancing
10. Display key vocabulary or information
11. Make lists to highlight what needs to be remembered as well as a progress chart to strike off completed items
12. Connect notions together e.g. mind map, or put information into a sentence to be remembered
13. Chunk information e.g. BBCITVGMT can be remembered more easily as 3 chunks than a list of 9 letters

### Further advice and support

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#### Useful Websites:

See SENIT Memory Mat and the Memory Pack on SENIT resource pages of [www.leedsforlearning.co.uk](http://www.leedsforlearning.co.uk)

<https://www.ldatschool.ca/working-memory-difficulties/>

<https://www.yesataretelearningtrust.net/Portals/0/Supporting%20Working%20Memory.pdf>

**Reading:** Understanding Working Memory, a classroom guide by Gathercole & Alloway.

<https://www.specialneedsjungle.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/WM-classroom-guide.pdf>

Ready Set Remember: Short Term Auditory Memory Activities, which can be used to develop provision.

[iif kgpm mense ready set remember.pdf](http://iif.kgpm.mense.ready.set.remember.pdf)

