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## **Isn't LASS more expensive than conventional tests?**

Not when you consider that LASS comprises eight different tests and once you have paid for the licence, there is nothing further to pay – no test booklets, for example – and also when you take into account the significant cost-savings in teacher time. To purchase a battery of conventional tests that will do the same as LASS would cost two to three times as much as the cost of LASS, and take two to three times longer to administer, plus additional time for scoring results, etc.

Of course, if you purchase a licence for LASS and then only use it to assess one or two students a year then it works out relatively expensive, but if you use LASS as it is intended to be used – i.e. to assess as many students as possible – then it can work out incredibly cheap in comparison with conventional tests. This approach also has the merit of uncovering the difficulties (and strengths) of students that you may not have fully appreciated, facilitating a more proactive, pre-emptive and preventative approach rather than always relying on a reactive interventionist approach.

North Ayrshire Council is one of the local authorities that issued all schools with Lucid software. About this development Alan Cowieson, Quality Improvement Officer, Additional Support for Learning & Pupil Support Service, North Ayrshire stated that Lucid software "increased accuracy and confidence in identifying and assessing needs" and "represented good value for money".

## **References**

Cowieson, A. (2009) North Ayrshire's developing approach to identifying and meeting the needs of learners with dyslexia. *The Dyslexia Handbook 2009/10*. Reading, Berks: British Dyslexia Association, 53-63.