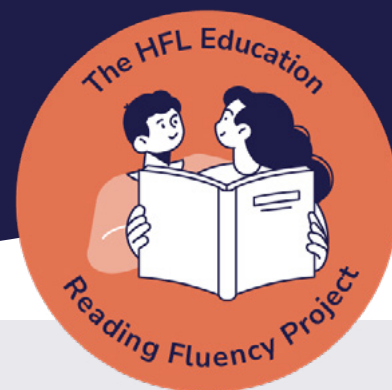


HFL Education's KS2 Reading Fluency Project School Information Sheet.



Summary:

- Primary schools in England with a Year 6 cohort in 2024 are invited to take part in a funded efficacy trial of HFL Education's KS2 Reading Fluency Project; the trial will explore whether targeted fluency instruction improves reading comprehension;
- The funding for this efficacy trial is from the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), through the Department for Education (DfE)'s Accelerator Fund, which aims to expand the use of evidence-based programmes;
- HFL Education's KS2 Reading Fluency Project involves training teachers to deliver an evidence-informed intervention, targeting 6-8 pupils identified as working below age-related expectations in reading comprehension;
- The KS2 Reading Fluency Project requires the class teacher to deliver an intervention for twenty minutes, twice a week, across eight weeks;
- Approximately 2,200 pupils have taken part in the KS2 Reading Fluency Project; analysis of pupil data suggests that explicitly teaching oral fluency is a promising approach for improving comprehension;
- The evaluation requires involvement of 180 schools:
If you are interested in participating or finding out more, please email:
readingfluency.eef@hfleducation.org (or scan the QR code to email us).



What is HFL Education's KS2 Reading Fluency Project?

NB: the KS2 Reading Fluency Project will also be referred to as the Project throughout this document

HFL Education's **KS2 Reading Fluency Project** is a targeted intervention designed to improve reading comprehension for pupils identified as working below age-related expectations in reading in upper Key Stage 2. It is designed to **improve outcomes in pupils' reading comprehension** through improving fluent reading of age-appropriate texts, with a particular focus on improving prosody.



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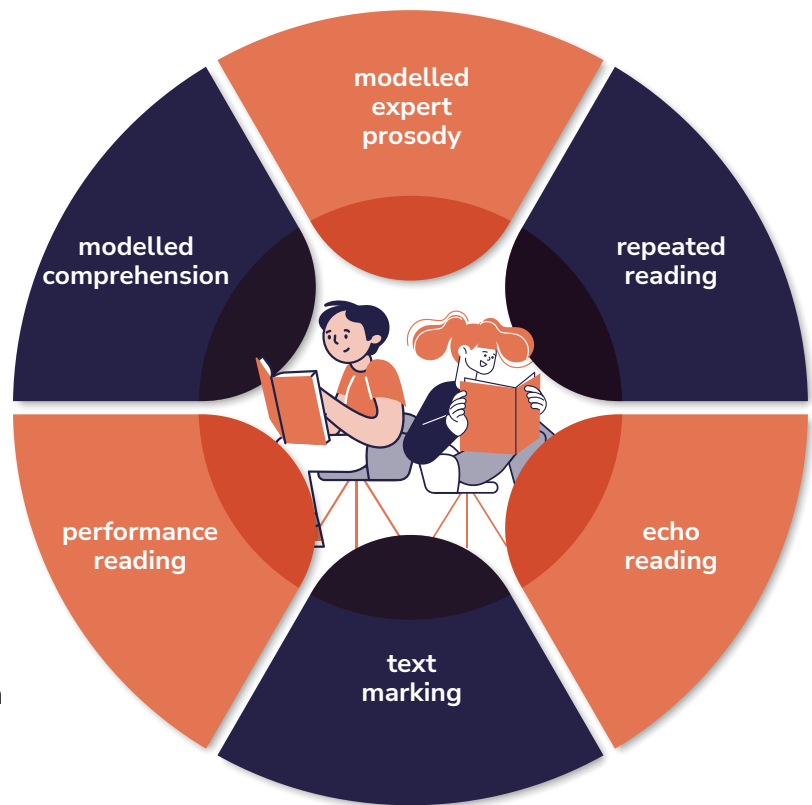
Education
Endowment
Foundation

verian

HFL Education

HFL Education's KS2 Reading Fluency Project supports effective fluency instruction through the considered implementation of six core strategies:

- modelled expert prosody;
- echo reading;
- repeated reading;
- text marking;
- performance read;
- modelling comprehension.



Who is funding this trial and why?

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) identified developing reading fluency as a high impact approach in their KS2 **Literacy Guidance Report**; furthermore, reading fluency is

referenced repeatedly in **The Reading Framework**, published by the DfE in July 2021, and updated with further references to reading fluency in September 2023.

Given the importance of reading comprehension and the promise of the KS2 Reading Fluency Project, the EEF has commissioned an efficacy trial to understand the impact of this approach on pupils. The funding for this programme and evaluation is from the DfE's Accelerator Fund, which aims to expand the use of evidence-based programmes.

We invite state-funded schools with a Year 6 cohort in 2024 to take part in a funded efficacy trial of HFL Education's KS2 Reading Fluency Project.

How will the KS2 Reading Fluency Project be trialled?

The Project will be evaluated using a Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT) approach by Verian, one of the evaluation partners of the Education Endowment Foundation. The trial will focus exclusively on the impact of the Project on Year 6 pupils.

Participating schools will be randomly allocated to either the 'treatment' group – who will receive the training and deliver the Project – or the 'control' group – who will not receive the training or deliver the Project but will assist in data collection.

This random assignment ensures the 'treatment group' and the 'control group' are as similar as possible; the only difference being that schools



in the 'treatment group' have delivered the Project and those in the control group have not. By comparing the results between both groups, we can learn how well the intervention worked.

For the evaluation of this project, Verian will look at data collected during an independently administered assessment of 6-8 pupils in each school, which will be conducted by ACER UK, on behalf of Verian, in all participating schools in February 2025. We will also evaluate the impact on KS2 SATs outcomes.

Which schools are eligible to take part in this trial?

Schools must meet the following eligibility criteria to qualify for a place on this trial:

- are a state-funded school in England;
- will have a Year 6 cohort in autumn 2024;
 - i. within this cohort, schools must be able to identify 6-8 pupils who meet the following criteria (more detailed guidance on pupil selection will be shared with schools who secure a place on the trial):
 - o are assessed as being not on track to meet age-related expectations in reading at the end of KS2;
 - o are not able to demonstrate adequate comprehension of texts deemed to be in line with age-related expectations;
 - o have passed the Phonics Screening Check (PSC) in Year 1 or 2 and/or are now able to decode individual words in a similar assessment.
- are not taking part in any of the EEF trials listed below:
 - i. Fixing Fluency
 - ii. Reading Plus
- have not taken part in KS1 or KS2 Reading Fluency Project training delivered by HFL Education (or delivered in collaboration with one of our national partners) within the last three years.

When will the trial take place?

Schools allocated to the treatment group will engage in the Project training and delivery across autumn/spring term 2024/25; schools who wish to take part in the trial will need to sign up by May 2024 (sign up may close before this date as participation will work on a first come, first served basis) and select the 6-8 pupils from their upcoming Year 6 cohort in June 2024.

The number of school places is limited so sign up as soon as possible!



What are the benefits of participating in this trial?

All schools participating in this trial will help build the evidence base about what works well to improve reading comprehension, which will be used to help pupils and colleagues across the sector.

Participating schools will be informed of their allocation to either 'treatment' or 'control' group in **July 2024**.

Treatment School Benefits

Schools allocated to the treatment group will:

- receive HFL Education's KS2 Reading Fluency Project CPD at a significantly reduced cost of **£350** (standard price £850), including:
 - access to approximately 18 hours of high-quality remote training across autumn/spring term 2024/25 for two participants, delivered by experienced project advisers from the HFL Education English team;
 - guidance and ongoing support from HFL Education project advisers to deliver the KS2 Reading Fluency Project, including a remote support visit to reinforce best practice.
- be provided with the specified assessment tool: York Assessment of Reading for Comprehension (YARC) Primary Passage Reading Set (worth approximately £230).

Control School Benefits

Schools allocated to the control group will:

- receive a **£500 'thank you' payment** to help cover administrative expenses related to evaluation participation;
- be guaranteed a place on a future round of HFL Education's KS2 Reading Fluency Project across academic year 2025-6 at a discounted price of £650 (standard price £850).

All schools taking part in the trial will receive scores achieved by the participating pupils from the assessment activities. These consist of assessment administered by independent assessors in February 2025 (all schools). Results will be shared at the end of the trial period in July 2025.

How much time will be required to participate?

Treatment Group Schools:

Schools allocated to the treatment group will receive the KS2 Reading Fluency Project training. Year 6 teachers/subject leaders will be trained to deliver the project by experienced HFL Education advisers.

All training is delivered remotely and consists of:

- A one-day launch event (9.00am-3.00pm) delivered across three sessions:
 - Session 1 is a self-paced eLearning module;
 - Session 2 and 3 are live, interactive webinars;



- A remote paired school coaching 'visit' (9.00-11.00 am or 1.00-3.00pm): a session to support implementation; schools are randomly paired with another project school in order to facilitate a rich, developmental discussion;
- A remote mid-project group twilight session (3.00pm-5.00pm): an opportunity to reflect and review learning at a key midpoint of the project period;
- A remote group reflection session (3.00pm-5.00pm): focused on planning next steps for embedding practice and disseminating learning across the school's wider teaching team.

The majority of the CPD will be undertaken across Autumn term 2024 (with the final reflection session taking place at the start of Spring 2025).

Schools will need to arrange approximately 1.5 days release per participating teacher (e.g. Year 6 teacher who will be responsible for delivering the intervention, plus a senior leader, most probably the English/Reading Subject Leader) to attend the project CPD, plus an additional 0.5 day to conduct pre-intervention YARC assessments with selected pupils in Autumn term 2024.

In addition, the English/Reading Subject Leader and Year 5 teacher will need time in Summer term 2024 to identify 6-8 pupils who meet the Project inclusion criteria (guide time: two hours).

The project requires the Year 6 teacher to deliver the intervention for twenty minutes, twice a week, across eight weeks.

Control Group Schools:

Schools allocated to the control group will not receive the Project training and will be asked to continue with 'business as usual'. **It is essential however that schools allocated to the control group engage in the evaluation activities, as outlined below.**

Schools in both groups play an important role in contributing to the evidence base of what works well to improve reading comprehension.

How will data sharing work?

All personal data collected as part of the study will be treated with the strictest confidence by the delivery and evaluation teams and processed only in accordance with the requirements of the UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. HFL Education will require the names and contact information for school staff involved in the project. Verian will require schools to share information about the 6-8 pupils selected as the target audience, including demographic details, assessment outcomes, and attendance for Project sessions.

Further details about the precise roles of each organisation in relation to the processing of personal data, and the legal bases for sharing data, will be included in a Memorandum of Understanding and Parent Information Sheet which we will share in due course. Please follow these links to view the privacy notices. [HFL privacy notice](#); [Verian privacy notice](#); [EEF privacy notice](#).



Key dates:

Activity:	Dates/timeframe:
Schools sign up to the project	January 2024 – May 2024
Selection of project pupils based on HFL guidance	June 2024
Notify schools of allocation (Treatment or Control)	July 2024
Treatment schools to conduct YARC assessment	Mid-September 2024
KS2 Reading Fluency Project delivery period	September 2024 – December 2024
Post-intervention period testing, consisting of a visit to the school by an assessor to conduct assessments with the selected Y6 pupils	February 2025
Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs)	May 2025
Final report publication	Summer 2026

HFL Education: Delivery Organisation

HFL Education is the largest not-for-profit school improvement company in the UK and is a leading national provider of school improvement and business support services, training, and resources, which enable schools, educational settings and multi-academy trusts to deliver a great education. We support those we work with to achieve successful long-term outcomes for their children.

We believe that every young person, through access to a great education, should be able to realise their potential, regardless of where they live, their background or circumstances.

Verian: Evaluator

Verian, formerly known as Kantar Public, is a world leading, independent research, evidence, evaluation, and communications agency, providing services to government and the public realm in the UK, the EU, and APAC.

Education Endowment Foundation (EEF): Project Funder

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) is an independent charity dedicated to breaking the link between family income and educational achievement. We do this by supporting schools, colleges, and early years settings to improve teaching and learning through better use of evidence. The funding for this project is provided by EEF, through the DfE's Accelerator Fund.

If you are interested in participating in this trial, please complete the [Expression of Interest form](#) and a member of our team will be in contact with you.