

Lexia reading skills software research trial: School information sheet

Overview

In 2023–25, Queen's University Belfast (QUB) and LexiaUK are partnering with the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and RAND Europe to evaluate the effectiveness of Lexia® Core5® Reading (Lexia).

The trial will assess the impact of Lexia on the reading skills of struggling readers in Year 2. This is an exciting opportunity for up to 224 primary schools in England to contribute to educational research. The findings will help fellow schools like yours make an informed choice when deciding which interventions improve student outcomes based on empirical evidence.

Two cohorts of schools will take part in the trial: cohort 1 (112 schools) is running from June 2023 – July 2024, and cohort 2 will run from June 2024 – July 2025.

The evaluation findings will be reported after cohort 2 have completed the trial in 2025.

Who can take part?

To be eligible to participate in the trial, a school must meet the following criteria:

- Have at least one full Year 2 class (i.e., no split year groups)
- Not currently involved in any other EEF trial focusing on Year 2
- Have not held a Lexia licence in the 12 months prior to July 2022 (for cohort 1) and July 2023 (cohort 2)
- Able to provide the necessary IT technology required to support the intervention.

What is the Lexia® Core5® Reading programme?

The [Lexia® Core5® Reading programme](#) (Lexia) is a computer-based Independent Learning System (ILS) for reading provided by LexiaUK. Lexia provides personalised practice and instruction in all key skill areas which make a successful reader (R-Y6).

Although some schools use Lexia across the age and ability range, it is more commonly used as a targeted intervention for pupils, which is how we will evaluate the program (with selected pupils from Year 2). Pupils can use Lexia with minimal supervision, but the teacher or teaching assistant overseeing the programme is expected to monitor pupils' usage and provide additional support as and when required.

A previous [EEF-funded evaluation of Lexia](#) found that struggling readers made on average one additional month progress in reading compared to struggling readers who did not receive Lexia. Based on these findings, the EEF have funded this second, larger research project to test the programme's effectiveness when delivered at greater scale.

What does the programme involve?

This technology-led solution allows pupils to work independently on all key areas which make a successful reader (R-Y6). Lexia includes practise and instruction in phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension skills and spelling and grammar rules. As pupils progress through their personalised pathway, teachers can access progress reports which informs planning and instruction. Furthermore, if the teacher feels additional support is required, a large bank of printable resources can be accessed which includes lesson plans, independent worksheets and class activity exercises.

LexiaUK provides full training and ongoing support to ensure the programme is implemented with fidelity. To enable teaching staff to use Lexia for instruction, the identified lead Lexia teacher, selected teaching assistants, and senior school leaders will be provided with online training. There will be one introductory session and up to three training sessions, which will cover the following areas: (a) setting up pupils on the Lexia system; (b) monitoring and providing instruction with the aid of Lexia; and (c) using data generated by Lexia to inform their teaching. Schools should allot up to 1 hour and 30 minutes for each training session. Please note: to make best use of the programme, the school should plan to ensure Lexia is used regularly and senior management are involved in training and implementation sessions.

Schools selected to deliver Lexia will be expected to schedule four to five sessions per week, over the course of 24 weeks, with selected Year 2 pupils. Each session should last around 30 minutes (including 10 minutes for logging on and off).

Study and funding details

This study is a Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT) in Year 2 across 224 schools. Half of participating schools will be randomly allocated to receive Lexia (intervention group) whilst the remaining half will be asked to continue with business as usual (control group). Each school has an equal chance of being allocated to the intervention group or control group.

Intervention schools

These schools will be issued with a three-year licence for use with up to 50 pupils and will pay £350 inc. VAT to LexiaUK as a nominal school contribution. This represents a discount of 92% as the bulk of the cost will be funded by the EEF to support schools to participate in this research trial. As part of the trial, intervention schools will deliver the programme for up to 24 weeks, to a selected group of 8-16 struggling Year 2 readers, as identified by their teacher. Schools can use the additional licences with other pupils over the three years.

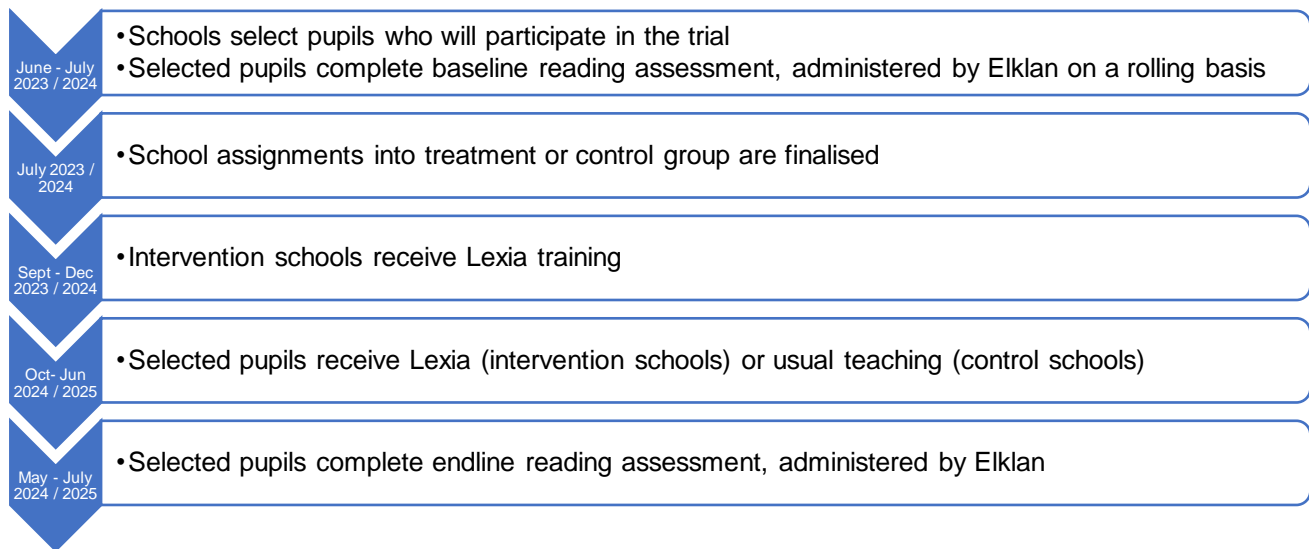
Control schools

These schools will not receive the Lexia programme but are able to receive £1,000 for full participation in the trial, including completing all necessary pupil assessments. Control group schools make an important contribution to understanding the effectiveness of the programme. Control schools will continue with usual teaching and intervention delivery during the trial (business as usual).

What does taking part in the evaluation involve?

RAND Europe have been selected as the independent evaluators for this intervention. They will assess the impact of the programme on Year 2 struggling readers' outcomes using a standardised reading test administered by their partners, Elklan.

Professional test administrators will visit schools to administer one to one testing with pupils that schools identified to participate in Lexia. Testers will arrange to visit schools once in summer (2023 for cohort 1, 2024 for cohort 2) and again in the following summer (2024 for cohort 1, 2025 for cohort 2). In total, we expect test administration to take approximately 35 minutes for each child. The evaluation will follow the timeline below, for each cohort:



Requisite to participating in this trial, schools should be willing to share pertinent pupil and staff data, which will be protected by the delivery and evaluation teams in accordance with the Data Protection Act of 2018 and the guidelines set by General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The detailed list of data that schools are expected to provide will be included in a Memorandum of Understanding, which schools will need to sign and return to formalise their participation.

Recruitment for this trial is now open!

We are interested to hear from you if you are an English primary school. If you match this and other selection criteria and return the completed MoU (see *Who can take part?* above), we will be in touch. Click below to complete the Memorandum of Understanding by 31st May 2023 if you wish to participate.

Deadline for recruitment:

- Cohort 1 schools is end May 2023
- Cohort 2 schools is end May 2024

[TO PARTICIPATE THE SCHOOL MUST COMPLETE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AVAILABLE HERE](#)

For further information, please contact lexia@qub.ac.uk