

FFT Reciprocal Reading Evaluation

Invitation to participate

We are seeking schools to participate in an evaluation of FFT Reciprocal Reading from September 2023 – July 2024.

1. What is Reciprocal Reading?

Reciprocal Reading is a structured talk-based approach to teaching reading comprehension, which helps pupils to better understand texts and learn reading strategies which they can apply to independent reading. When used as an intervention, Reciprocal Reading has the potential to raise enjoyment and reading attainment at the same time!

2. Why are you evaluating Reciprocal Reading?

Reciprocal Reading was evaluated by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) in 2019 and showed that pupils receiving Reciprocal Reading as a targeted intervention in Year 5 and 6, made more progress in reading attainment and comprehension compared to pupils in schools who did not receive the intervention. The evaluation report is available at <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/projects-and-evaluation/projects/reciprocal-reading>

In the previous evaluation, Reciprocal Reading was delivered in two regions in England. This new evaluation aims to see whether the positive impacts can be replicated for pupils in Year 5 and 6, for an even larger number of schools, in multiple regions across England.

3. What does the evaluation involve?

This evaluation is an EEF project, which is part of a wider DfE funded programme called the 'Accelerator Fund' (AF). The AF aims to increase schools' access to evidence-informed programmes.

To support this, the evaluation will be conducted through a Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT). This means that 300 schools will be recruited for the evaluation, and randomly allocated to either receive Reciprocal Reading as the 'intervention group' or continue with their usual practice, as the 'control group'. This allows a comparison to be made between the intervention and control group, and the impact of Reciprocal Reading can be determined.

The intervention group will receive training and resources to run the Reciprocal Reading. The control group will continue their usual practice in schools. All 300 schools in the evaluation will take part in evaluation activities described below.

4. What is involved specifically?

All schools will be asked to identify a teacher to coordinate the delivery of Reciprocal Reading in their school, a 'teacher coordinator'. The teacher coordinator will attend a short briefing to support identification of 12 – 16 pupils in years 5 and 6 who are likely to benefit from Reciprocal Reading, using FFT's reading assessment tool. These pupils will also take part in a before and after assessment of their reading comprehension.*

For schools randomly allocated to receive the intervention, the teacher coordinator and two other teachers/TAs who will run the programme, will receive two days of face-to-face training. The first day of training will commence in Autumn 2023, and the second approximately halfway through the year (Spring term 24). After the first day of training, schools can begin delivering the Reciprocal Reading programme to the identified pupils.

Schools will deliver two Reciprocal Reading lessons a week to the pupils, working in groups of 6 – 8, and run the programme for at least 12 weeks. Lessons usually last about 30 minutes. Schools will be helped to implement the programme through two online follow-up meetings with FFT advisers. Schools will also be provided with text resources – including a newly published short story anthology - and support materials.

Schools must be prepared to release staff for training and to take part in the two online meetings. Schools will need to consider where Reciprocal Reading lessons will take place, when sessions will be timetabled, and how staff absence will be covered etc.

Reciprocal Reading is being independently evaluated by an Evaluation Team from the Behavioural Insights Team (BIT). BIT's Evaluation Team will contact schools about the assessments and may ask some schools to contribute to case studies of the approach. Both the programme and the evaluation are being funded by the EEF. Whilst FFT and BIT's Evaluation Team have worked together with the EEF to set up the research, they are independent of each other, and FFT has no editorial control over the report that will be issued about Reciprocal Reading.

The training for the Reciprocal Reading programme is delivered by FFT, a non-profit making charitable trust and part of the Fischer Family Foundation. FFT aims to support schools and teachers, from nursery through to post – 16 education, to help pupils achieve their very best... through providing expert data and literacy tools to support schools globally in improving pupil outcomes.

** If pupils are absent on the day of the testing, when Qa Research Assessors visit your school, you may be asked to administer the tests independently. This is because having a full dataset of pupil tests is very important to the evaluation, but scheduling additional visits from Qa Research can be costly and administratively burdensome. During the testing visits, Qa Research Assessors will demonstrate to school staff how to use the pupil login details to access the platform. School staff will need to find a timeslot for the tests and a quiet space with a computer where the pupil can complete the test. It is important that pupils complete the tests independently, without help from school staff.*

5. Who can take part?

Any primary or middle school, which includes at least one Year 5 and one Year 6 class, can take part in the Reciprocal Reading trial. However, unfortunately schools which are currently using Reciprocal Reading from FFT, or have done so previously, cannot take part, nor can schools who are delivering the Inference Programme.

300 schools will be recruited from across the country. At least half the schools will be recruited from within Education Investment Areas. Schools will be asked to complete a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to agree to the evaluation arrangements before being accepted onto the project.

6. What are the benefits for my school in taking part in this project?

Both intervention and control schools will be contributing to an understanding of the impact of Reciprocal Reading. An evaluation report will be published on the EEF website once the project is completed.

Schools randomly allocated to the intervention group will receive:

- Access to a proven approach¹ to teaching reading comprehension which has the potential to improve reading outcomes and support pupils' reading for pleasure.
- High quality CPD for 3 staff
- 18 copies of FFT's short story anthology
- Resources to support planning and the delivery of Reciprocal Reading lessons

The costs for schools receiving the intervention is £215 for the training and resources, which is less than 10% of the usual cost. The remainder is subsidised by the EEF. Please note that this does not include the cost of supply cover for attendance at training etc.

Schools randomly allocated to the control group of schools will receive:

At the end of research period, control schools will be paid £1000 to recognise their work for the evaluation, for example the collection and submission of data. They will be invited to take part in online Reciprocal Reading training with FFT the following year, at a subsidised rate.

7. How about data sharing?

As part of this project FFT will be collecting data on the schools involved, including URN numbers and contact details of staff involved. During the project, we will be collecting data on pupils' attendance at Reciprocal Reading lessons, as we believe 'dosage' is a factor in

¹ <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/projects-and-evaluation/projects/reciprocal-reading>

the progress they make. We will share data about pupil's attendance at Reciprocal Reading lessons with BIT's Evaluation Team.

FFT's data protection policy can be accessed here: [Data protection and information security - FFT](#) and Privacy Policy can be seen [here](#)

FFT's data protection officer is Helen Robinson. She can be contacted at FFT Education Ltd, 79 Eastgate Cowbridge, CF71 7AA; Email: dpo@fft.org.uk; Telephone: 01446 776262

BIT's Evaluation Team will also be collecting data on pupil's reading comprehension starting points, progress, end point attainment and overall achievement. Their privacy policy can be accessed here: [privacy notice](#).

FFT will share a contact name and email address for a named individual in your school with the EEF. For information on the purpose, processing, and retention of this data, please see their [privacy notice](#).

8. Evaluation Project Timeline: Key Dates

Date	Activities
All schools	
May – July 2023	Online introductory briefings for school lead coordinators
June – July 2023	All year 4 & 5 pupils (academic year 2022/23) identified as being below the expected standard in reading comprehension will be assessed on their comprehension and decoding skills in May/June 2023 using FFT’s Reading Assessment Programme (RAP). NGRT tests completed on 12 – 16 selected pupils
September 2023	Schools which haven’t completed NGRT tests do so Schools notified of allocation to intervention or control group.
Intervention schools only	
October – November 2023	Day 1 face to face training
October 2023	Schools begin delivering Reciprocal Reading sessions with Y5 and Y6 groups. Aim is for 2 sessions a week for at least 12 weeks. Complete attendance of sessions and submit to FFT.
December 2023 – January 2024	Online Meeting 1 with schools
January – February 2024	Day 2 face to face training
March – May 2024	Online Meeting 2 with schools
May – June 2024	All schools will have completed the Reciprocal Reading intervention programme.
All schools	
May-June 2024	Final assessments completed using NGRT
July 2024	Control schools can purchase Reciprocal Reading training Intervention schools can use Reciprocal Reading approaches and materials as they wish.
Spring 2025	Publication of evaluation report

9. How to find out more or sign up for the project

The window for applying to take part in this research runs from January 2023 to July 2023. The deadline for sign up is **Friday 14th July**. Schools are encouraged to sign up as early as possible in the spring and summer terms 2023. Early sign up will allow initial assessments to be completed before the end of summer 2023.

To find out more and to sign up for a free webinar please go to [FFT Reciprocal Reading website](#)

To sign up please contact reciprocalreading@fft.org.uk

Thank you for your interest in this Reciprocal Reading project.

Andy Taylor, Education Director (Literacy)