

# Evaluation of the Ruth Miskin *Read Write Inc.* Phonics programme

**Project code: EFRW**

## **What is the purpose of this evaluation?**

The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) has been asked by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) to carry out an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of the Ruth Miskin *Read Write Inc.* Phonics Programme. We are enlisting the support of a sample of schools that do not teach the Ruth Miskin *Read Write Inc.* Phonics programme to act as a 'control group'. The control group schools data will aid in an evaluation which aims to establish the extent to which schools teaching the *Read Write Inc.* Phonics programme helps to improve children's phonics and reading ability.

## **Who is sponsoring NFER to carry out this work?**

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF).

## **How have comparison schools been selected to take part?**

Using data provided by EEF/Ruth Miskin Training on the 70 treatment schools receiving the *Read Write Inc.* Phonics programme, we have produced a sample of similar schools, which will be recruited into a comparison group. We will select the comparison group of 70 schools (provided that these schools have not received RMT and have not used the *Read Write Inc.* Phonics programme in the last two years) by matching eligible schools to the observable characteristics of the treatment schools.

We will use freely-available school-level data to identify relevant characteristics. We will begin by using characteristics relating to the selection criteria. We will then carry out the matching process described below and assess the matching quality of observable characteristic balance in the matched sample (with how this is carried out mentioned below). If there appears to be an imbalance (a statistically significance difference between groups), we will consider using the following observable characteristics of the treatment schools until we obtain a matched dataset.

- region (North or South)
- school size (as a continuous variable)
- gender
- school FSM

## **What does taking part involve?**

1.) We would like your school's year 1 and year 2 teachers to fill in a brief 15 minute online questionnaire which will ask for details about the phonics and early reading teaching methods currently being taught by your school. We would send the online questionnaires to your school for completion by the teacher(s) during May this forthcoming summer term.

2.) We would also like your school to provide NFER with a list containing your year 1 and year 2 children's summer 2020 PSC and end of key stage 1 (KS1) national curriculum assessment raw scores in June. In addition to those scores we would also like the list to contain a number of background details about the children such as name, gender, ethnicity, free school meals and special needs status.

### **How will NFER use and protect the data collected?**

NFER will use the pupil information provided by schools to link to other sources of data available on the National Pupil Database. Anonymised data will be shared with the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), EEF's data contractor, and with the developers, Ruth Miskin, to enable their own analysis and understanding of the trial and its outcomes. The data will be held anonymously in the UK Data Archive. Please note that no individual schools or children will be identified in any reports arising from the research.

NFER have robust procedures in place to make sure that we comply with the increased governance and accountability requirements of GDPR. The privacy notice for the trial [https://www.nfer.ac.uk/media/3018/efrw\\_privacy\\_notice.pdf](https://www.nfer.ac.uk/media/3018/efrw_privacy_notice.pdf) sets out how we comply with the data protection principles and how pupils / parents can exercise their rights.

### **Who can be contacted for more information?**

If you have any queries or would like any assistance with accessing the online reply form, please do not hesitate to contact me or my colleague Matt Ryan by telephone on 01753 637096 or by email to [ruthmiskin@nfer.ac.uk](mailto:ruthmiskin@nfer.ac.uk).