

Lesson planning using AI lesson assistant, Aila - A Teacher Choices Trial

Frequently asked questions

Is recruitment still open?

Yes, recruitment is currently open. Places are filling up fast. To register your interest, please complete this [online form](#).

We are a Multi-Academy Trust. Can we sign all the schools under our Trust for this trial?

Yes, any state-funded mainstream school with Year 3-6 in England can take part, however each school needs to sign up individually.

Each school from the Trust will need to complete a separate Expression of Interest Form. If the school is eligible, we will then share details of how to sign up. A member of the school's Senior Management Team will need to complete the Memorandum of Understanding for each school.

For this trial, we will randomly allocate schools to two groups: the Aila group or the non-Aila group. This means schools within the same Trust or Academy group may be allocated to different randomisation groups (some may be asked to use Aila, and some may be asked to avoid using Aila).

Please see the [School and Teacher Information Sheet](#) for further information about the two groups.

The research team are happy to support multiple schools from a trust to sign up – please contact the NFER team at KS2TeacherChoices@nfer.ac.uk

Can the school key contact also be a participating teacher?

Yes, the key contact can also take part in this trial as long as they meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Teachers who have teaching and lesson planning responsibilities during the autumn term 2025, for any subjects in year 3, 4, 5 or 6 and are willing to be part of the trial.
- Teachers who share class teaching responsibilities are eligible (e.g. job-share, part time teachers).

- Teachers who plan to create at least some lesson resources from scratch in any subject during the trial period and aren't intending to use pre-prepared, paid for or well-established curriculum resources for all of their teaching.
- Teachers who are not currently using Aila for lesson planning. Teachers who are already using Aila to plan lessons at least once a half term are not eligible to take part.
- Individual teachers will confirm their participation by completing an online survey in September 2025.
- Teachers who agree not to use the Oak website during the trial period.

What do you mean by “teachers who plan to create at least some lesson resources from scratch in any subject during the trial period and aren’t intending to use pre-prepared, paid for or well-established curriculum resources for all of their teaching”?

Because of the way that Aila works, and the suite of resources it generates for a single lesson, the trial is intended for teachers who are not entirely reliant on readymade curriculum resources. We are looking for teachers who anticipate creating at least some of their own lesson content—whether across all subjects or just one subject.

How many lesson plans will the teachers need to complete and are there any criteria for these lesson plans?

We are asking teachers not to do any additional planning as part of the trial. They should plan their lessons as they usually do, i.e. only creating a new set of lesson resources if they would have done so anyway – we are not aiming to increase teachers' workload as part of the trial. This is why we are only asking for teachers to take part who plan to create at least some resources from scratch during the autumn term.

Teachers will be asked to provide two lesson plans along with any resources they created during the ten-week diary period, regardless of whether these were developed using Aila or not. We will be asking for lesson plans that were created during diary period. Any resources based on pre-existing schemes or previous years would not be accepted.

Can teachers in a school use the same lesson plan across different classes within a year group?

If your school has one teacher creating lesson plans for all classes in a year group, then only that teacher who is creating the lesson plan and teaching a class would be eligible.

Can we use the other approach if we don't find our randomised approach suitable?

No, once schools are randomised, we ask the teachers to follow the randomisation approach they have been allocated to.

If our school is randomised to using Aila group, can the teachers use Aila in as many subjects as we want to?

Yes, Teachers can use it for any subject where they are planning their KS2 lessons in autumn 2025. Please see teacher eligibility section in page 2 of the [Information sheet](#).

Can any teachers, teaching assistants and SENCO in Y 3 to 6 take part in this trial?

Please see teacher eligibility section in page 2 of the [Information sheet](#). Only teachers that have lesson planning and teaching responsibility for autumn term 2025 are eligible. Teaching Assistants are unfortunately not eligible to take part, although if TAs in a school allocated to use Aila wanted to use Aila they could of course do so, but they would not be able to take part in this research or asked to complete the diary/surveys.

Can the participating teachers be swapped once the trial activities have been started?

No. Once the trial activities have started from end of August, teachers must not be swapped.

Can teachers with shared responsibility take part in this trial? Do they both need to sign up to the trial?

Yes, teachers who share teaching and lesson planning responsibilities are eligible to take part in this trial. While it is not essential for both teachers to participate as they will complete the diaries and surveys individually, we encourage both teachers to sign up to the trial if possible.

We are a very small schools with only a couple of mixed year group classes. Can we take part in this trial?

Yes, small schools are welcome to sign up. We encourage you to nominate as many teachers as possible who are teaching classes in years 3 to 6.

How long will the surveys and weekly diary take for the teacher to complete?

The weekly diary will take a maximum of five minutes per week to complete and will be completed over ten consecutive weeks in the autumn term 2025. The surveys are expected to take 10 minutes to complete.

Who should I contact if I have any further questions about this Teacher Choices trial?

If you have any further queries, please contact the NFER Team at KS2TeacherChoices@nfer.ac.uk