



Rich Retrieval

School Information Sheet

Overview

Bath Spa University is partnering with the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to evaluate the Rich Retrieval primary science programme. This programme has been developed in an evidence-informed way by Bath Spa University, as part of work to develop new and promising programmes in education.

The aim of this programme is for Key Stage 2 pupils to build rich scientific concepts that are interconnected to form meaningful schemas of science topics. Research evidence and professional experience show that retrieval practice in primary science is mostly limited to retrieval of discrete 'facts' using low-stakes quizzes. This may lead to pupils having knowledge as lots of separate bits of information without understanding how they relate to each other. This programme is designed to provide forms of retrieval practice that will support building rich, connected science knowledge.

This is an exciting opportunity for your school to be part of a funded pilot of the programme. Two teachers from your school can participate in the programme and will be supported to reflect on the use of retrieval practice and provide access to a supportive bank of resources for use with your pupils.

What does the programme involve?

The Rich Retrieval programme promotes the use of six topic-specific strategies referred to as the '5C's and Q': Compare, Contrast, Categorise, Connect, Create, and Question. It is integrated into weekly science lessons for 5-10 minutes. Teachers will be provided with a bank of activities which have been tailored to the science curriculum and relate to each of the Rich Retrieval strategies.

The professional development (PD) programme includes an introductory webinar for school leaders, followed by two in-person professional development days and two twilight one-hour webinars for participating teachers.

What are the benefits of participating?

By taking part your school will contribute to the education evidence base that helps to inform and improve outcomes for children in primary science. The pilot report will be publicly available on the EEF website upon completion of the project.

All participating schools will receive :

- the professional development programme described above,
- access to the resource bank of activities,
- a 'thank you' payment of £450-£550 on completion of the evaluation activities.

Eligibility

To participate, schools must meet the following criteria:

- State maintained schools only
- Able to travel to Professional Development days in either Bath or North Somerset
- Science teaching should be done weekly rather than in termly blocks
- The two participating teachers should be in Key Stage 2 and include a science lead or deputy lead
- Not participating in other current EEF primary science trials

Who is running the project?

Bath Spa University is a higher education institution known for its teacher education programmes. They developed the Rich Retrieval programme and will lead the delivery. NFER is a leading independent provider of research and insights, and will be independently evaluating the programme.

How does the pilot evaluation work?

This is a pilot evaluation, meaning it will focus on observing how the programme runs and initial signs of perceived impact. No pupil assessments will be made. Teachers will be asked to complete two questionnaires and share details throughout the delivery period about what they are trying out in class via a brief delivery log. All schools will be invited to either online interviews or a school visit. During school visits, researchers will observe teachers and pupils during rich retrieval sessions. Acknowledging the additional work for a school visit, these will include an extra £100 thank you payment.

Are there any costs involved?

As a pilot study, the professional development programme will be provided at no financial cost. Schools will need to provide cover for two teachers for two PD days. Schools will also receive a 'thank you' payment of £450-£550 for completing evaluation activities.

How will data be protected?

Bath Spa University, NFER and EEF will treat all data securely, confidentially and in accordance with data protection law.

Personal data will be collected and used to conduct the delivery and evaluation, and deleted at the end of the project. Your school, staff and pupils will not be identified in any report arising from the research.

For further information, see the Bath Spa University [privacy notice](#) and the privacy notice for the evaluation, which is available on the NFER [website](#).

What is the timeline for this project?

Date	Details
January 2026	Recruitment opens, schools express interest and complete Memorandum of Understanding
April 2026	Final list of schools will be confirmed, with others added to a waitlist.
September 2026	Introductory webinar for Senior Leadership Team Completion of pre-questionnaire and data log
October 2026	PD Day 1 Programme use begins and runs till March 2027
November 2026	Twilight webinar 1: implementation support
November 2026 – April 2027	On-going completion of delivery log
January 2027	PD Day 2
Feb-March 2027	Evaluators visit schools or complete online interviews
April 2027	Twilight webinar 2: Review
May 2027	Teachers complete questionnaire for evaluator
February 2028	Evaluator report on EEF website

Interested in participating?

Register your interest: click [here](#)

For more information: click [here](#)

Ask a question of the developer: primary.science@bathspa.ac.uk

Ask a question of the evaluator: richretrieval@nfer.ac.uk