Hillingdon Headteacher Conference 'Strengthening Local Area Wide Partnerships & Collaboration'

Education Endowment Foundation

Sarah Mullins – London and South East Regional Delivery Lead Jo Goodman – West Midlands Regional Delivery Lead

Agenda

- An introduction to EEF
- Insights from evidence use research
- Facilitating impactful collaboration





About the EEF: Our Mission

The **Education Endowment Foundation** (EEF) is an independent charity dedicated to breaking the link between family income and educational achievement.

We do this by supporting schools, nurseries and colleges to improve teaching and learning through better use of evidence.





About the EEF: The historical attainment gap in England



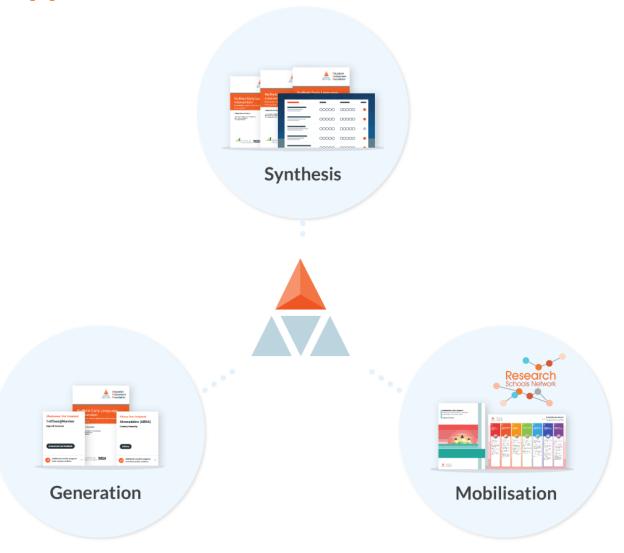
Even before the pandemic, the attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers was beginning to widen.

Source: EPI. (2020).
Education in England:
Annual Report 2020.
Education Policy
Institute





About the EEF: Our approach







Our approach: Evidence generation

We fund ideas that:

- Focus on raising outcomes to narrow the socioeconomic attainment gap
- Build on existing evidence or widespread practice
- Can be scaled up cost-effectively if shown to work.

We focus on robust evaluation:

- Randomised Controlled Trials (RCTs) or QEDs
- Independent evaluations
- Separation of developers and evaluators

We report without fear or favour.





Our approach: Evidence generation

Our new research agenda aims to...

- Identify programmes around priority themes or questions
- Fill gaps in the evidence base
- Find approaches with the potential to support disadvantaged pupils' progress





Our approach: Evidence generation

We work to scale interventions that are proven to have a positive impact on pupil progress.

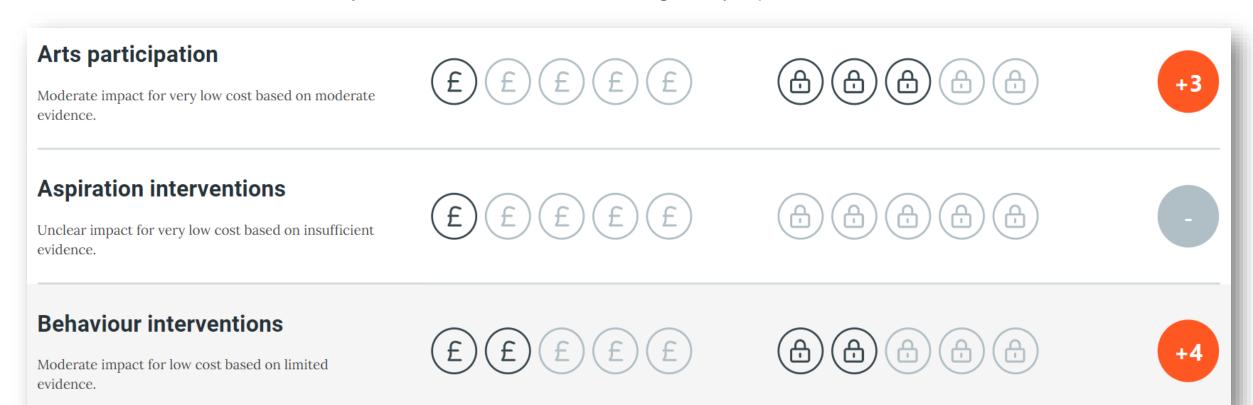




Our approach: Evidence synthesis

Our flagship resource is the **Teaching and Learning Toolkit**.

An accessible summary of over 2,600 studies, regularly updated with the latest evidence



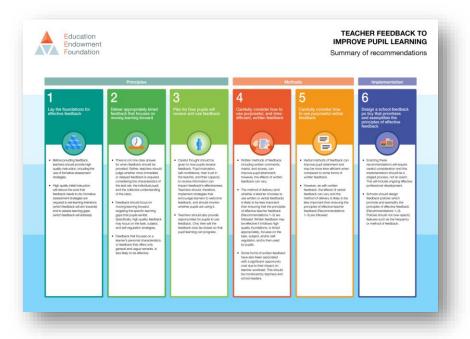


Our approach: Evidence synthesis

EEF guidance reports summarise key findings from our systematic evidence reviews.

They provide actionable recommendations on a variety of areas of teaching practice, from literacy to leadership.







Key objectives of EEF guidance reports:



2









Evidence

All are underpinned by evidence reviews (ideally systematic reviews) commissioned by the EEF, for the purposes of producing the guidance.

Teacher voice

Teacher voice is central, both in helping to identify which guidance to produce (or update), as well as in shaping the reports and their recommendations.

Other experts

Reports are led by the EEF Programmes team, together with the relevant EEF Content Specialist - they convene a consultative external panel of subjectexpert teachers and academics to help analyse the externallyproduced evidence review and decide on 5-7 key headline recommendations around which the guidance is structured.

Accessible

All EEF guidance is written in accessible language and supported by clear graphics.

Support

We aim to help teachers implement these recommendations through a range of practical resources (for example, self-assessment tools, audit tools, case studies) published online alongside the Guidance Report.

Training

Our network of Research
School partners develop
and deliver training
based on the guidance.
Working collaboratively
with partners across
England (such as
local authorities, multiacademy trusts, teaching
schools) we ensure
this reaches thousands
of schools nationally,
particularly in areas
of disadvantage.



Preparing for Literacy

Early Years & Primary

Seven recommendations to support improving early language and literacy





Improving Literacy in Key Stage 1

Primary

Eight recommendations to support the literacy of 5-7 year-olds

Download PDF



Improving Literacy in Key Stage 2

Primary

Seven recommendations to improve literacy teaching for 7-11 year-olds

◆ Download PDF



Improving Social and Emotional Learning in Primary Schools

Primary

Six recommendations for improving social and emotional learning in primary schools

◆ Download PDF



Metacognition and Selfregulated Learning

Primary & Secondary

Seven recommendations for teaching self-regulated learning & metacognition

Download PDF



Improving Behaviour in Schools

Primary & Secondary

Six recommendations for improving behaviour in schools

♣ Download PDF



Improving Mathematics in the Early Years and Key Stage 1

Early Years & Primary

Five recommendations to support practitioners in developing the maths skills of 3-7 year-olds

◆ Download PDF



Improving Mathematics in Key Stages 2 and 3

Primary & Secondary

Eight recommendations to improve outcomes in maths for 7-14 year olds

■ Download PDF



Improving Secondary Science

Secondary

Seven recommendations for improving science in secondary schools

Download PDF



Using Digital Technology to Improve Learning

Primary & Secondary

Four recommendations on using digital technology to improve children's learning

Download PDF



Putting Evidence to Work - A School's Guide to Implementation

Early Years, Primary & Secondary

A guide to implementation applicable to any school improvement decision

◆ Download PDF



Making Best Use of Teaching Assistants

Primary & Secondary

Guidance to help primary and secondary schools make the best use of TAs

Download P





Our approach: Evidence mobilisation

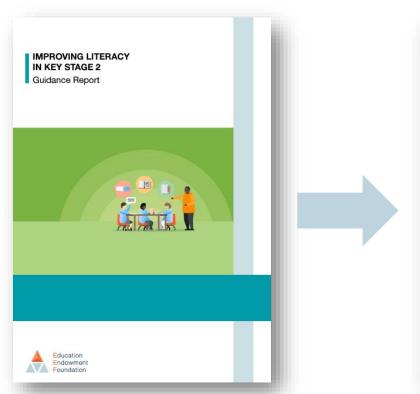
"Simply disseminating research summaries and evidence-based resources to schools is not an effective way for research organisations to support schools to improve pupil outcomes."

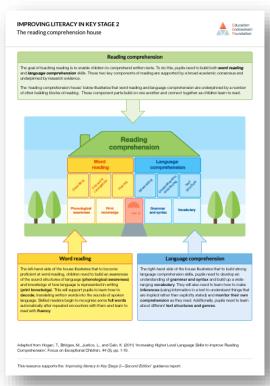
'Literacy Octopus' Dissemination Trial evaluation report (2019)





Our approach: Evidence mobilisation







Reader's Theatre



Reader's Theatre is a widely used teaching strategy that exemplifies how guided oral reading instruction and repeated mading of texts can be used to support pupils to direlop reading fluency. The Trust have developed their own guide to support the use of Reader's Theatre in the classroom. The Wise Multi-Academy Trust is a family of schools in the North East of England.



Step 1: Adult as model The adult reads the selected passage of Children echo back the section read by the class text aloud as an 'expert model' of the adult, emulating their intonation, tone,

Step 2: Echo reading fluency whilst pupils follow the text with their own copy. This may be repeated multiple times as necessary. Step 3: Text allocation Children work in pairs or triads. Each group

1. all have the exact same short section of

parts, so that each group has a different

Step 4: Repeated choral reading Step 5: Close reading

In their groups, children read their section In their pains/triads children make a close about meaning, audience, and purpose. This requires children to look closely at the writer's use of language and consider characterisations, etc.

performance. This is discussed and agreed as a group.

Prompts are provided to direct their reading.

Step 7: Practise Step 8: Perform

their reading. They may decide to change or add to their performance slightly as a regult of their rehearsal.

Each group performs their rehearsed

appraise their own performance).

prompts as success criteria to support

1 Young, E. and Rasinski, T. (2018) Resident Theatest Difects on Word Recognition Automaticity and Residing Proceedy', Journal of Research in Reading, 41, pp. 475-485.

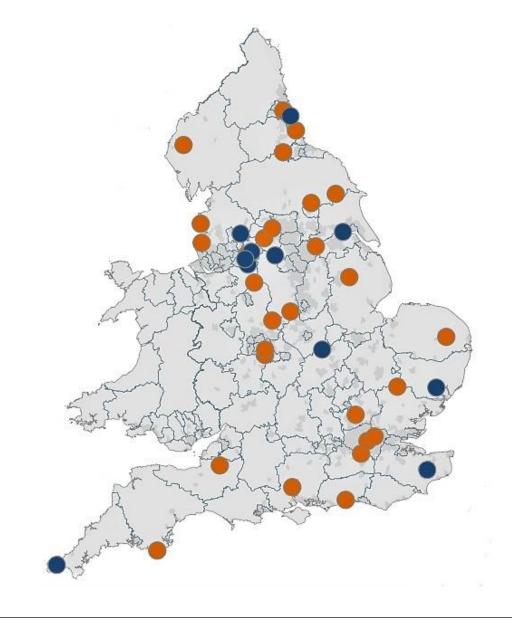
This resource supports the 'Improving Naracy in Key Stage 2—Second Edition' guidance report.



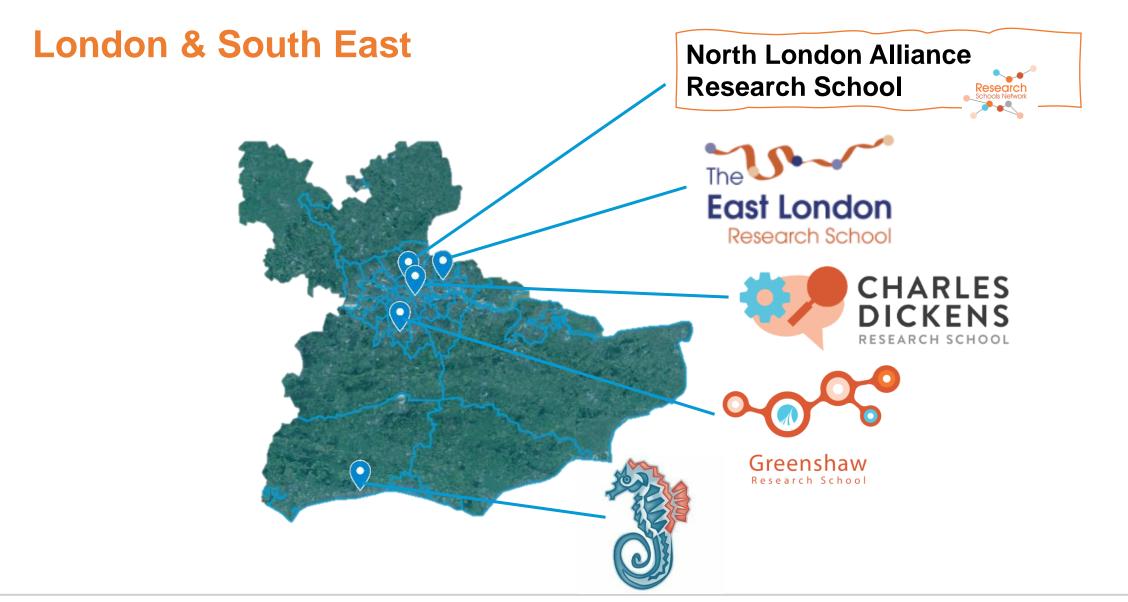


Our approach: Evidence mobilisation

The Research Schools Network serves as a bridge between evidence and practice.











Insights from Evidence Use Research

EEF Evidence in Use Project

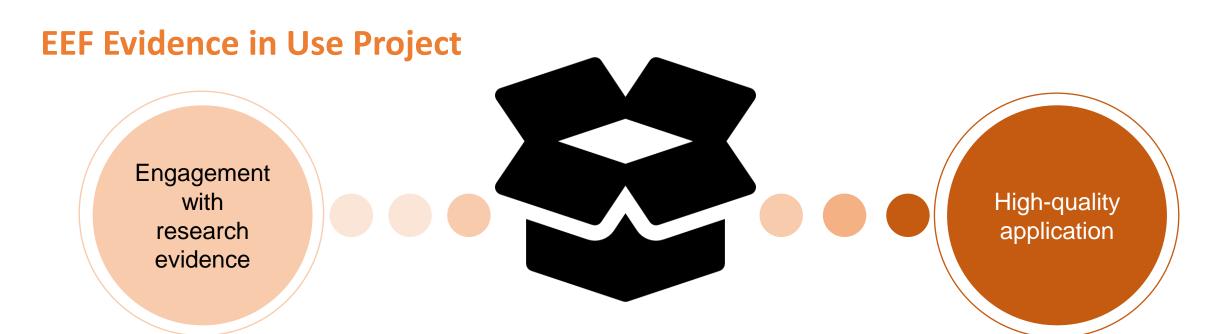
- ✓ We know a lot about what constitutes effective teaching, through educational research
- ✓ EEF alone has commissioned over 200 randomised controlled trials in a little over a decade.

But

...we know much less about how research evidence is viewed by school leaders and teachers, and what they know of and do with the information it provides.







'As part of acknowledging the complexity of educational knowledge governance, there has been a growing recognition that *promoting* the use of evidence is not the same thing as ensuring its use. (...) A number of realities intrude including the limited time and capacity of policy makers and practitioners; the time and effort required to learn new habits and behaviours; and the interaction among different forms of knowledge when determining the best course of action.'

Tracey Burns & Tom Schuller (2022)





Barriers to evidence use...

https://www.menti.com/al3omcs6fpc5

Code: 5849 8914







Research evidence use in schools: what do we already know?

Prior research has identified many factors that affect school leader and teacher engagement with and use of research evidence:

- Available time
- b. Accountability pressures (e.g., Ofsted / DfE)
- c. Staff retention
- d. Practitioner confidence
- e. Availability of sources from trusted organisations
- f. How research evidence is shared and disseminated
- g. Format and presentation of research evidence
- h. Leadership's engagement with research evidence

(from AERO, 2022; Lord et al, 2017; Wiggins et al, 2019; Coldwell et al, 2017)





How do school leaders perceive and use evidence?



Research evidence use is becoming a pro-social norm within English schools. Most teachers and school leaders report having used research to reflect on and discuss best practice with colleagues and believe school leaders who are evidence informed can share best practice.

58% class teachers

71% head teachers

'It's the smarter working, isn't it? It's not introducing something again with numerous changes that can often be implemented in schools, but actually: what's going to have an impact?' (RSFG4)





How do school leaders perceive evidence?



School leaders and teachers define 'research evidence' in many ways, which may influence their ability to combine evidence sources effectively and make comparative judgements of evidence type and quality.

68% headteachers

'Peer-reviewed findings from information which has been systematically collected and analysed by external experts and academics.'

62% headteachers

'Findings from personal searches through reading sources such as books, and internet and library searches.'





Developing a shared language

What is the difference between:

• Research?

• Evidence?

Research evidence?









What is research evidence?

Our working definition:



The findings from systematic investigation.



High-quality research will also be conducted to ensure reliability - for example by deploying measures to reduce the risk of bias - and to quality-assure the research methods used and the strength of evidence underpinning inferences and conclusions, such as through a process of peer-review.

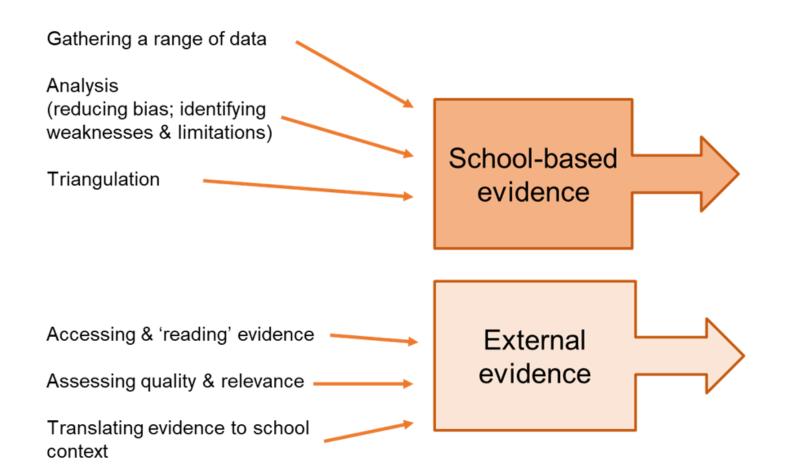


Examples of high-quality research evidence could include evidence commissioned and published by the EEF in the Teaching and Learning Toolkit or evaluation reports, papers in research journals, and research reports from other reputable organisations.





Why is Evidence Literacy important?



Understanding of school priorities / impact of implemented approaches

AND

identification of promising approaches







How do school leaders use evidence? What motivates them to use research evidence in decision making?



Whilst many school leaders see research evidence as important to their work and school improvement, some justify existing decisions with it and at times perform superficial compliance *to* research evidence, rather than making deep and thoughtful use *of* it. This is often due to capacity and knowledge constraints (e.g., time, workload, research evidence literacy, etc).

'it feels like a flipping circus. And research is one of the many hoops that you've got to jump through, including online safety, female genital mutilation. (...) fundamental British values, careers education. The list is endless, but (...) research comes along thinking it's a solution. It isn't. It's just another hoop. (...) I mean, we're doing it. Of course, we do it because we have to. But it's another thing. It's another hoop in the circus that we like to call education'





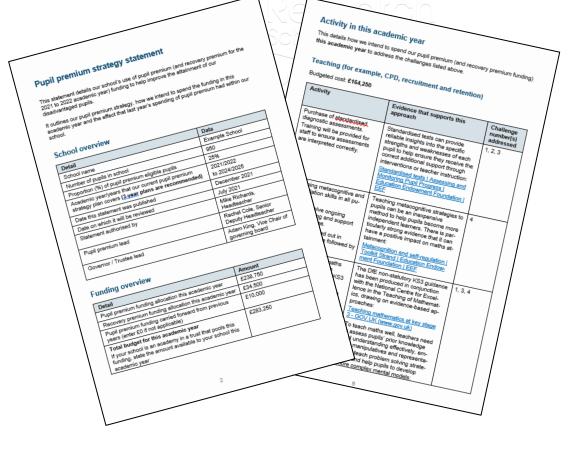
How is evidence shaping PP strategies?

Activities

- July 2022: online survey of school leaders (119 eligible responses)
- March 2023: Analysis of random sample of PP statements: 400 schools.
- 2022-23 Pupil Premium Reference Group, 17 school leaders.

Questions

- What challenges are schools addressing with PP?
- How are evidence and EEF guidance used in PP decision making?
- What does strategy development look like in schools?
- What spending choices are schools making, and why?

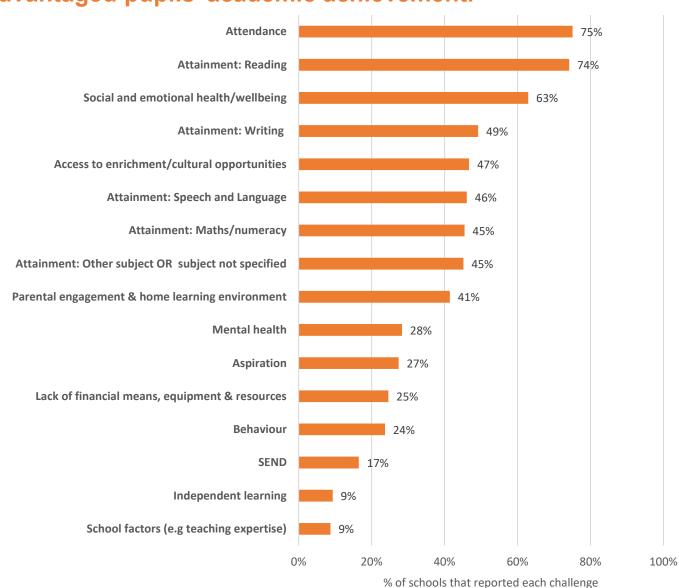


What behaviours and influences sit behind these decisions?





Three quarters of schools in England say poor attendance and low-reading levels are the biggest challenges affecting their socio-economically disadvantaged pupils' academic achievement.





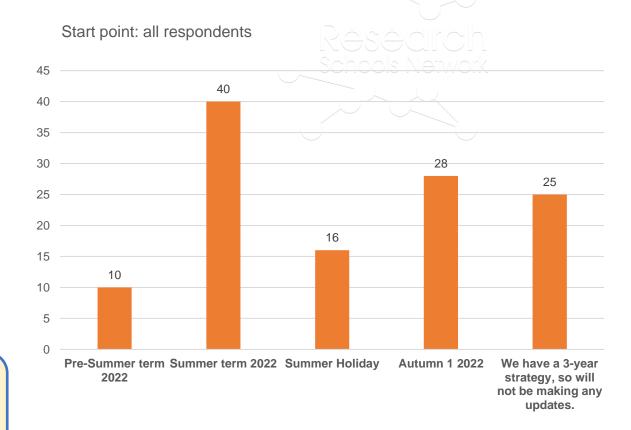
Attendance is a growing challenge: **54%** in 20-21, **71%** in 21-22 and **75%** in 22-23.



PP strategy development often starts in summer

- Most schools consult teachers and wider staff; many do not (survey)
- Governors are more likely to review the strategy than be consulted on it (survey)
- Trust schools are given high degree of autonomy with PP (Reference Group)

I'm lucky at the moment with the governor I have who supports disadvantaged pupils through charity work but other schools in our trust are not as lucky.



I find that very often our governors don't have the correct understanding of PP to know how to be a critical friend.





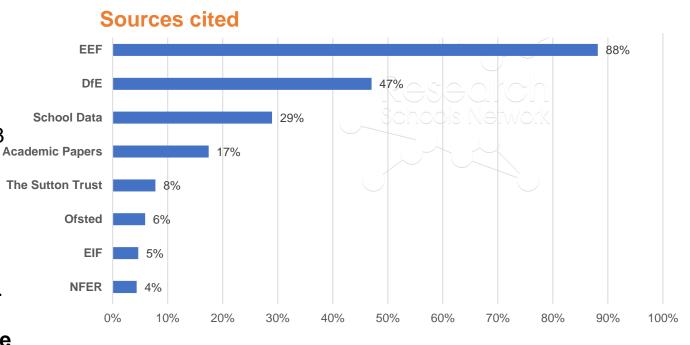
Reported evidence use is increasing...

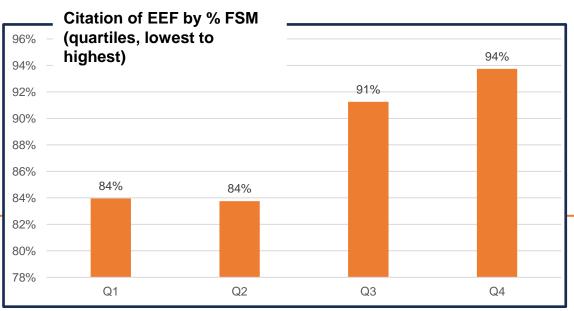
- 89% of schools cited research evidence in their 22-23 PP statement, up from 76% in 21-22.
- Secondary schools were more likely to cite research evidence than primaries (91% vs. 84%).
- The EEF was the most frequently cited source (88%).
- There was a positive correlation between FSM rate and citation of EEF.

We believe as a Trust in researched, informed action. There's always a load of research that happens before we decide on our strategic plans

Why Accelerated Reader? I think they just used it in my previous trust, so I was familiar with it

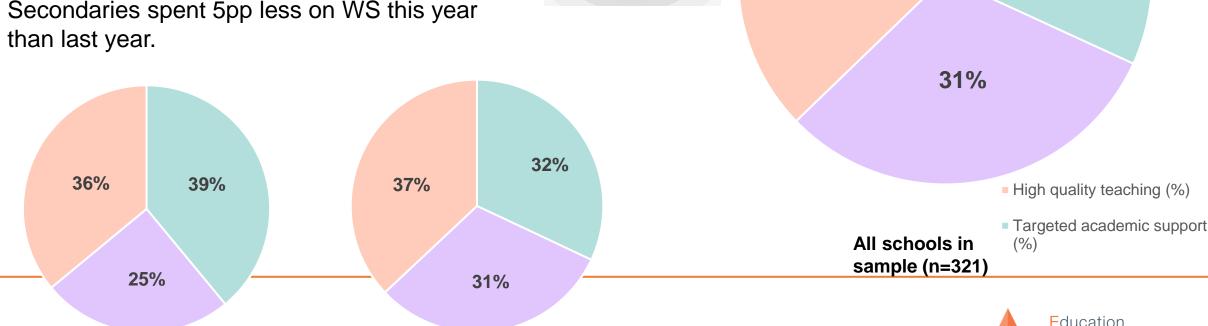
Any consistent practice applied effectively from the top of the school to the bottom over a sustained period will have impact.





On average, schools are spending slightly more on high quality teaching, but with significant variation

- Primaries report higher proportion of spend on TAS than secondaries.
- Secondaries reported higher proportion of spend on WS than primaries.
- than last year.



Primary schools

Secondary schools



32%

37%

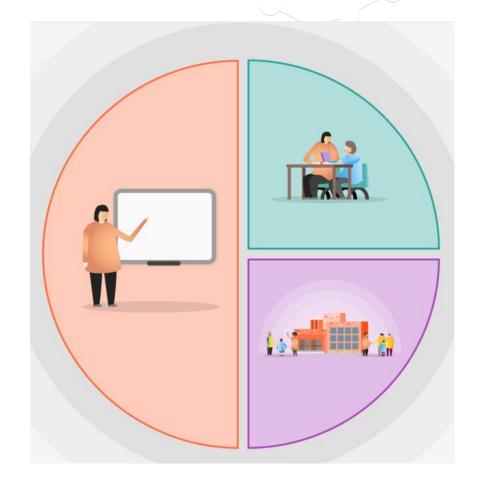
The tiered model is a valued planning and comms tool

It makes all your staff aware that this is a shared problem. And it's not just your PP representative. It's not just an SLT problem. Everybody has a large chunk to play here.

It gives us as headteachers the, you know, it's OK to use the money for more children... There's more children benefitting from it.

It's given me the confidence to be able to speak to the trust and say, we are assigning this chunk of money to teaching.

That's why we introduced [a new teaching approach]. The outcome improved for everyone. The gap does narrow, but it doesn't disappear. So, you have to be targeting those disadvantaged as well. It is a danger just to use teaching as a single strategy.







Frequently stated approaches: literacy, CPD, arts, attendance

Up since last year:

- Numeracy (21pp)
- CPD (17pp)
- Hardship funding (17pp)

Down since last year:

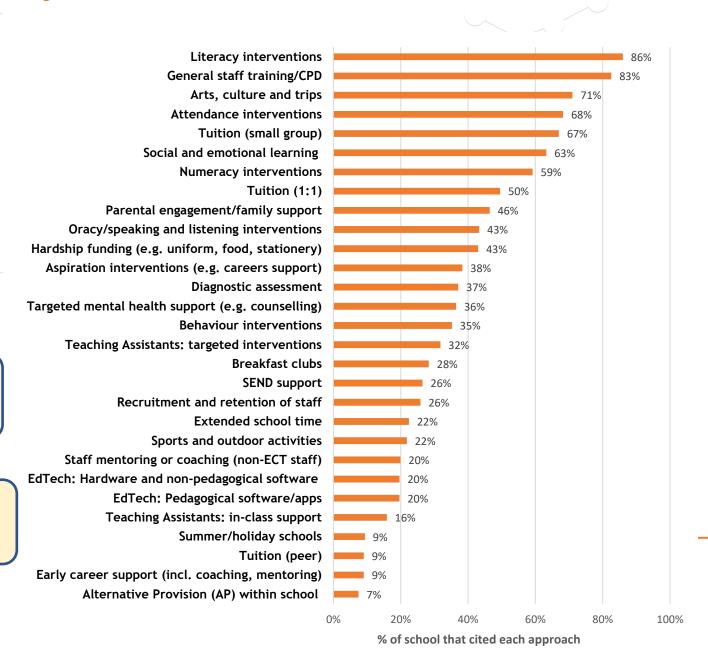
- Recruitment and retention (13pp)
- Sports activities (13pp)

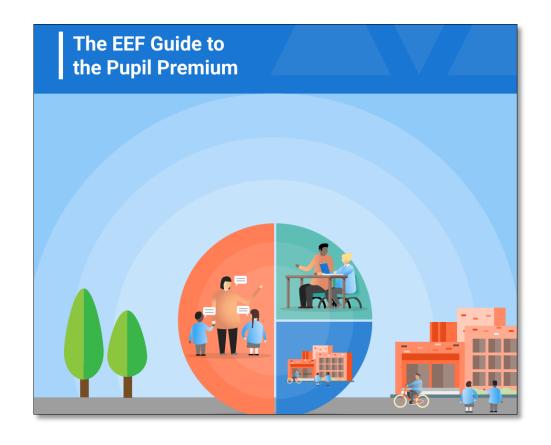
Staffing accounts for substantial spend across tiers

We use a good chunk of our PP money to keep staff in school such as our attendance manager and behaviour mentor and many of our TAs.

There's a danger your pupil premium money goes straight out... And so you realize how do you change and react? Because it's pre-allocated already.







The EEF Guide to the Pupil Premium

'Menu of approaches': evidence brief and supporting resources

This planning tool is designed to support you—a school leader, governor, or trustee—as you consider potential approaches to your Pupil Premium spending. It introduces findings from high quality research related to each strand of the Department for Education's 'menu of approaches' and signposts evidence-informed resources.

Before considering approaches, a crucial first step in strategy development is to conduct a robust diagnosis of specific barriers to learning faced by your socio-economically disadvantaged pupils. For more support with developing your Pupil Premium strategy, see our **Guide to the Pupil Premium**.



The EEF Guide to the Pupil Premium

Discussion prompts for governors and trustees to support an effective strategy

As a school governor or trustee, you have an important role to play in supporting and challenging the leadership team at your school to improve outcomes for socio-economically disadvantaged pupils. How the school spends its Pupil Premium funding is an important part of this role.

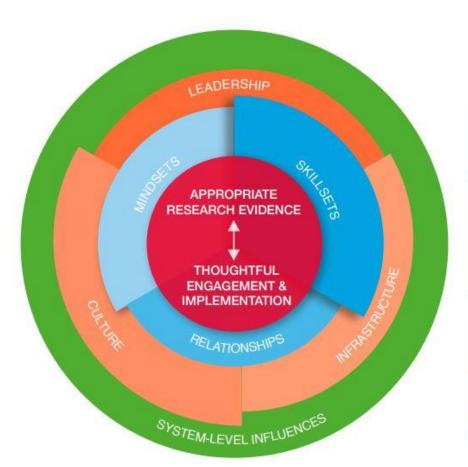
Did you know?

The Department for Education (DfE) requires every school to review and publish an updated Pupil Premium strategy statement every academic year before 31 December.





Foundations to support impactful collaboration



Quality use of research evidence in education is defined as...

the thoughtful engagement with and implementation of appropriate research evidence, supported by a blend of individual and organisational enabling components within a complex system.

CORE COMPONENTS

APPROPRIATE RESEARCH EVIDENCE

The need for research evidence to be not only methodologically rigorous, but also appropriate for the educational issue, the context and intended use.

THOUGHTFUL ENGAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

Critical engagement with the research evidence, shared deliberation about its meaning and effective integration of aspects of the evidence within practice.

ENABLING COMPONENTS - INDIVIDUAL LEVEL

SKILLSETS

The knowledge and capabilities that are required to thoughtfully engage with and implement appropriate research evidence.

MINDSETS

The dispositions, attitudes and values that are required to thoughtfully engage with and implement appropriate research evidence.

RELATIONSHIPS

The interpersonal processes and connections that are required to thoughtfully engage with and implement appropriate research evidence.

ENABLING COMPONENTS - ORGANISATIONAL LEVEL

LEADERSHIP

The organisational vision, commitments and role models that support thoughtful engagement with and implementation of appropriate research evidence.

CULTURE

The organisational ethos, values and norms that support thoughtful engagement with and implementation of appropriate research evidence.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The organisational structures, resources and processes that support thoughtful engagement with and implementation of appropriate research evidence.

SYSTEM-LEVEL INFLUENCES

The complex interactions and inter-dependencies across the education sector to support thoughtful engagement with and implementation of appropriate research evidence.



Foundations for Effective Partnership Working and Evidence Integration



Collaborative

Work within and across the local education system to co-construct and co-deliver change for children.



Aligned

Understand, use and complement existing expertise within local infrastructures.



Coordinated

Organise and align people and activities around a highleverage priority amenable to change.



Evidence led

Take an evidence
-informed approach
to processes and
practices at school
and system level.



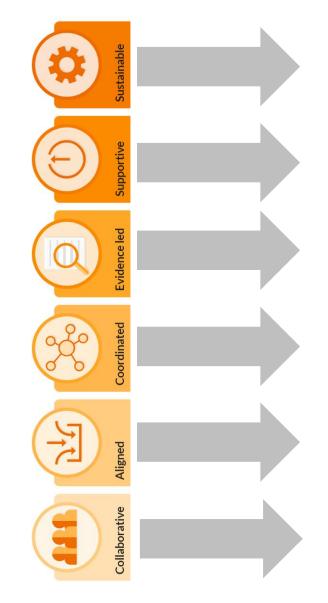
Supportive

Build strong supporting structures, providing project leadership and keeping the main thing the main thing.



Sustainable

Commit to a long-term structured implementation process taking time to prepare, whilst building lasting system capacity beyond the life of the partnership.



- · Create partnerships that **empower colleagues to use evidence in their contexts**
- Co-construct the partnership and co-deliver training where appropriate
- Embed partnership activities within the existing regional school system
- Capitalise on existing influence, expertise, resource
- Use local priorities to frame a clear a common goal focused on disadvantage
- · Identify **high-leverage priorities** that are amenable to change
- Develop shared values, language and understanding
- Use evidence to provide objectivity and unite the local system
- Provide tailored support for implementation and behaviour change
- Monitor implementation to drive learning and iterative improvement
- Develop a **strong supporting infrastructure** e.g., logistics, processes, resources
- Establish overall project leadership, governance and coordination
- Take appropriate time to explore and prepare
- Build local capacity and expertise
- · Build a **lasting on-the-ground culture** for evidence-informed school improvement

- What mechanisms support effective partnership working in your school and in Hillingdon?
- Based on these foundations, how could partnership working improve in your school and in Hillingdon?



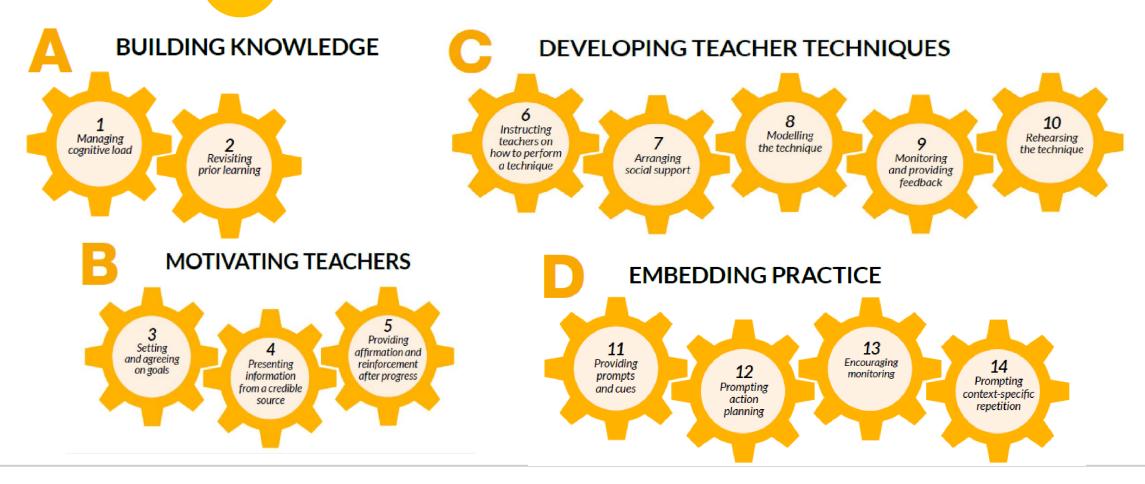




Effective Professional Development



Ensure that professional development effectively builds knowledge, motivates, develops techniques, and embeds practice









Building knowledge	Developing teacher techniques	Embedding practice	Likely outcome
	techniques		

✓	/	/	If embedding practice is mi- understand the content, be have the techniques to do s time—may revert to old hab	e motivated to improve, and so but—after a period of		Revert to old habits
✓	✓		When developing technique are absent, this could lead to gap'. Here, a teacher may be need to do and be motivate they do not know how to do tools to deliver.	be fully aware of what they ed to do it; unfortunately,		Knowing-doing gap
✓			Here teachers may have eff knowledge but lack the mo- implement.			No implementation
	✓	✓	In this instance, while teach implementation may be pre misunderstood and misapp	esent, they may have		Misapplication
✓	✓	/	Where professional develop mechanism from each groube effective.			Potential to be effective







A. BUILD KNOWLEDGE

How can we effectively manage the cognitive load of teachers? How can we revisit prior learning to embed understanding?

B. MOTIVATE STAFF

How can we encourage teachers to set and agree on goals? How can we ensure information is from a credible source? How can we offer affirmation and reinforcement after progress?

C. DEVELOP TEACHING TECHNIQUES

How can we best instruct teachers on how to perform a specific teaching technique? What practical support needs to be offered (e.g. coaching)? How can we offer models of the teaching technique and purposeful feedback on practice? Are there opportunities to rehearse the teaching technique?

D. EMBED PRACTICE

How can we provide useful prompts and cues that helpfully nudge teachers? How can we prompt productive action planning? How can we encourage self-monitoring? How can we prompt context-specific repetition to embed practices?









https://www.menti.com/al3omcs6fpc5

Code: 5849 8914

"Giving every child – whatever their socio-economic background or where they go to school - access to great teaching is one of the most powerful levers we have for change. Using evidence looking at what has and hasn't worked in the past – puts us in a great position to do this."



