

Flexible Phonics

Information for Parents/Guardians

Dear parent/guardian,

The Aldgate School is taking part in a project called 'Flexible Phonics'. As part of the project, staff at the school may be trained to use the Flexible Phonics approach to teaching reading with children in reception year. The Flexible Phonics approach aims to teach children in reception year a set of strategies to help them with learning to read new words by themselves.

In this project, we will test the effectiveness of the Flexible Phonics approach using a randomised controlled trial (RCT). This means that some schools will be taught using the Flexible Phonics approach and some will be taught phonics in the usual way. Which schools are taught Flexible Phonics and which are taught using the usual phonics approach will be decided at random. Using random selection is the best way to see if a programme has made a difference to pupil outcomes.

The Flexible Phonics project is a collaboration between the Institute of Education at UCL (IOE) and the Institute for Employment Studies (IES) funded by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF).

What is involved?

- Your child may be asked to complete a short reading assessment, carried out by trained researchers, in October-December 2020 and June-July 2021. The assessment is designed to be fun and engaging, and we expect that your child will enjoy taking part

What will happen to your child's data?

- In order to run the programme and evaluate its impact, The Aldgate School will share data on your child with the Research Team
- We take your child's data security very seriously and will be working closely with The Aldgate School to ensure that data is handled appropriately and securely
- Data will be shared and processed in accordance with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018

For the purpose of research, the data provided by schools along with the data from the assessments will be linked with pupil information from the National Pupil Database (NPD),

and shared with the Department for Education, the EEF's archive manager and, in an anonymised form, with the Office for National Statistics and potentially other research teams. Further matching to NPD and other administrative data may take place during subsequent research. Anonymised data will be retained by us for 5 years then destroyed by the collaborating organisations.

- If you have any questions about [The Aldgate School] sharing data with the Research Team, please contact [Miss Harris (Izzy) or one of the senior leadership team.]
- A final report is expected to be published in summer 2022. No individual pupil or school will be identifiable in this report - all details will be fully anonymised
- Please read the Privacy Notice for full details which can be downloaded at https://www.employment-studies.co.uk/sites/default/files/resources/files/Flexible_Phonics_Privacy_Notice.pdf

Participating in the study

If you do not want your child's data to be included in the project, please return the form below within two weeks. Your child will still receive the same phonics teaching as everyone else in their class. If you decide you would like to withdraw your child's data after that please email flexible.phonics@ies.ac.uk.


If you would like any further information about the project, you can email flexible.phonics@ies.ac.uk

The evaluation has been approved by the Ethics Committees of the Institute for Employment Studies. If you require clarification of the ethical approval or have any concerns during the course of the research, please contact Clare Huxley on flexible.phonics@ies.ac.uk

If you DO NOT want your child to take part, please sign and return the attached form to [The Aldgate School] by **7thOctober 2020**

If you are happy for your child to participate, you do not need to do anything but please keep this letter for your information.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Anneka Dawson

Co-Principal Investigator, IES

Email: flexible.phonics@ies.ac.uk

Telephone: 01273 763400



Withdrawal Form

Please only return this form to the class teacher if you are NOT willing for your child's data to be used as part of the **Flexible Phonics study**.

I **DO NOT** give permission for my child's data to be included in the **Flexible Phonics study**.

Your Child's Name

Your Name

Your Signature

Parent / Guardian (delete as appropriate)

Date