

Fluency Focus Evaluation - Information for parents and carers

Dear Parent/Carer,

Over the coming year, South Farnborough Junior School is taking part in a research project to independently evaluate a new reading programme called Fluency Focus.

This document outlines what the Fluency Focus evaluation involves. Please read the information carefully and keep this document for future reference. If you do not want your child to participate in the evaluation please complete the form at the end of this letter and email it to your school. The school will then notify the evaluators of your decision. **If you are happy for your child to participate in the evaluation, you do not need to do anything.**

What is Fluency Focus and why are we evaluating it?

Fluency Focus is a carefully sequenced programme of twenty, one-hour whole-class reading lessons to be delivered once per week in Year 5. Fluency Focus is designed to support pupils' reading comprehension and attainment by improving the fluency with which they read. Lessons follow a clear structure in which fluency strategies are taught, modelled, and then practised by children.

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) is funding an evaluation of the project to assess whether Fluency Focus improves reading comprehension for these Year 5 pupils. Previous research has shown that Fluency Focus can build confidence and engagement in reading.

What does this evaluation involve?

We are conducting this evaluation across approximately 120 schools in across England as a Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT). At the start of the evaluation, half of the schools will be randomly selected to try out Fluency Focus in the next academic year (this group is called the 'intervention group'). The other half of the schools will not receive Fluency Focus, and will instead continue teaching reading as they currently do (this is the 'control group').

The Fluency Focus evaluation will be delivered from September 2026 to March 2027 to Year 5 pupils and will be conducted entirely during school hours, as part of the normal curriculum, by the class teacher (or another Year 5 teacher at the school trained to deliver Fluency Focus).

At this stage, we do not know whether your child's school will be in the Intervention or Control group. However, whichever group your child's school is in, the school will still be involved in the evaluation.

What will happen if my child's school runs Fluency Focus?

If your child's school is in the intervention group, your child and their classmates will receive Fluency Focus as part of their English instruction in the 2026/27 school year. The Fluency Focus programme will run for roughly 20 weeks during your child's English instruction in regular school hours. Note that your child will receive the Fluency Focus teaching sessions as part of their regular schooling, whether they take part in the research or not – opting out only means their data will not be shared with Verian for the evaluation.

If your school is selected for the control group, they will continue with their normal teaching, and your child will not receive Fluency Focus.

What is involved if my child takes part in the research?

Pupils in all Intervention and Control schools will take part in reading assessments so Verian can understand how well the Fluency Programme supports children's reading fluency and comprehension.

At the end of Year 4, and again at the end of Year 5 (Summer 2027), your child will:

- Take part in a whole class reading test delivered by the class teacher,
- Read a set text aloud for 60 seconds while their teacher makes a short audio recording

In addition to the two assessments conducted in Summer 2027, Verian will also:

- Ask your child few short questions about their experiences with reading, such as whether they enjoy it and how confident they feel when reading.
- Randomly select 10 pupils in each school to take part in an additional 30-minute reading test. This test will be conducted by an independent assessor at school and during regular school hours.

Finally, Verian will visit eight schools in the Intervention group to observe the Fluency Focus delivery. If your child's school is selected as one of these schools, Verian will conduct an observational visit that aims to capture how pupils engage with the programme activities. Your child will not need to do anything during the observed session, other than participate as they otherwise would. We will not record the sessions or collect individual pupil contributions during the visit. In our reporting, we may describe how pupils respond to the programme, but no individual pupils will be identified and all descriptions will be anonymised.

If you and your child are happy to take part in the evaluation and participate in all the activities listed above, South Farnborough Junior School will provide Verian with data about your child (as detailed below).

If you **DO NOT** want your child to take part in the evaluation, complete the form included at the bottom of this document and share it with your child's class teacher via email. You can opt-out of the evaluation at any point by contacting your class teacher.

Who is undertaking the research?

The [London South Research School](#) will provide support and training to your child's school to allow them to deliver Fluency Focus.

The evaluation of Fluency Focus is funded by the Education Endowment Foundation, an independent charity.

Verian Group UK Ltd. (trading as Verian) (research business) are the independent evaluator who will determine whether Fluency Focus improves reading comprehension.

What data will be gathered?

South Farnborough Junior School will share the following data with Verian to evaluate Fluency Focus:

- unique pupil number (UPN),
- first name,
- last name,
- gender,
- date of birth,
- your child's Free School Meal eligibility,
- your child's English as an Additional Language status, and
- your child's Special Educational Needs Status.

Verian will also receive attendance records for the Fluency Focus sessions, as well as your child's scores from the assessments conducted as part of this evaluation (including their responses to a few survey questions about reading). Your school will also securely share approximately 60-second recordings of your child reading a text with Verian, in Summer 2026 and again in Summer 2027.

Finally, Verian will request access to your child's KS2 SATs reading scores through the Department for Education's National Pupil Database to allow them to evaluate the impact of the intervention on formal assessment scores.

How will my child's data be processed?

The London South Research School will not need to receive any data about your child.

Neither Verian nor the London South Research School will use your child's name (or other personal data) or the name of the school in any report arising from the research. All personal data will be treated with strictest confidence in accordance with the requirements of the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), the Data Protection Act 2018, and the Data (Use and Access) Act 2025.

Data gathered by Verian will be stored on Verian's secure server in a password protected folder only accessible to the immediate evaluation team until its deletion in approximately February 2027. Once the trial is finished, pseudo anonymised data (data from which it's not possible to directly identify any young person from the study) will be added to the EEF data archive which is stored in the Office for National Statistics' Secure Research Service. The EEF will keep information in the EEF archive for as long as it is needed for research purposes. It will be possible to link the records held in the EEF archive to other public datasets such as education and criminal justice. Please see the [Verian privacy notice](#), the [London South Research School privacy notice](#), and the [EEF privacy notice](#) for more details about how your child's personal data will be processed.



Verian Privacy Notice



London South Research School
Privacy Notice

What will happen to the results of the evaluation?

The results of this evaluation will be reported by the EEF in 2028. The report will be freely available and will be shared with your child's school. Results in this report or any other future reported findings will be anonymous – no pupils nor schools will be identifiable from any reports.

Contact for further information

If you have any questions about Fluency Focus and what it will mean for your child, please email the London South Research School at info@londonsthsh.org.

If you have any questions about the how Verian will use your data or your child's data or about the way the evaluation is conducted, please email us at fluencyfocus@veriangroup.com.

Thank you very much for your time!

If you **DO NOT** want your child to take part in the evaluation, complete the form and share it with your child's class teacher via email.

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

I DO NOT wish for data about my child to be collected as part of this research.

Child's name:

Date of birth:

Child's Year 4 or Year 5 teacher:

Parent/carer name:

Parent/carer signature:

Date:

(Please return the completed form to your child's teacher by email)