**Participant Information Sheet for Parents/Carers**

Evaluation of DreamBox Reading Plus (Reading Plus)

1. **Invitation to research**

The school your child attends has agreed to take part in a project assessing the effectiveness of an online (Educational Technology – EdTech) adaptive silent reading programme called Reading Plus. This programme is designed to improve children’s reading comprehension, vocabulary and reading fluency. The Headteacher has agreed that all Year 5 pupils will take part. Your child will be in Year 5 next year (Academic Year 2024/2025). We want to inform you about the project, and what it involves for you and your child.

Reading comprehension, vocabulary and reading fluency are foundational skills for learning. Reading Plus is a whole-class reading programme, delivered every week, that aims to help children develop these skills. Existing research suggests that Reading Plus can have many benefits for pupils such as to improve pupils’ fluency, stamina, comprehension, vocabulary, and motivation to read. By helping pupils develop their reading skills, Reading Plus might also help them with to access other subjects in school. This project aims to study the effectiveness of Reading Plus in Year 5.

The Reading Plus programme will be delivered by your child’s usual classroom teacher, who will be supported by staff from Reading Solutions UK (the Delivery team). The effectiveness of the intervention will be independently evaluated by Manchester Metropolitan University (Manchester Met, the Evaluation team).

1. **Why has my child’s school been invited to participate?**

We are conducting this study across up to 126 schools in England. This is a ‘randomised controlled trial’ which means that half of the participating schools will be randomly allocated to take part in the Reading Plus programme. These are the ***‘intervention’*** schools. The other half will not take part in Reading Plus. These are the ***‘control’*** schools. Random allocation is the most robust way to evaluate how well the programme works. At this stage we do not know whether your child’s school will be an intervention or a control school. We will collect data from all schools, whether intervention or control.

**Intervention schools:** will deliver Reading Plus in the academic year 2024/2025. Year 5 teachers will receive Reading Plus training and ongoing support needed to deliver the intervention. Pupils will participate in Reading Plus sessions for at least 90 minutes a week, usually over two or three separate sessions. These sessions will replace guided reading or similar reading/literacy activities.

**Control schools**: will not receive any access to Reading Plus or training related to it and will teach literacy as “business as usual”. That is, they will carry on teaching literacy, including reading comprehension and reading fluency using the same methods that they were using prior to signing up to the trial.

1. **Does my child have to take part?**

It is up to you and your child to decide whether to take part in this evaluation. Your child’s teacher will tell your child about the evaluation so that you can talk about it together. Your child may also be shown this video which you could watch again with your child. [Video: Reading Plus video for pupils.](https://mmutube.mmu.ac.uk/media/Reading+Plus+Video+for+Pupils+/1_jw38n1s7)

This information sheet describes the project to you and the Privacy Notice explains in more depth how we will collect, store and analyse the data we collect about your child. If after reading this information sheet, the Privacy Notice and talking to your child, you agree to let us include your child’s data, you do NOT need to do anything else.

**If you DO NOT want your child’s data to be used in this research, please complete the attached Withdrawal Form and return it to your child’s teacher no later than <2 weeks from issue by school> or tell your teacher that you do not want your child to take part, and your teacher will keep a log of this. If you decide to withdraw your child from the evaluation after this date (up until 31st August 2025), please let your child’s class teacher know and they will inform the evaluation team using a secure link.**

We would like to collect data from your child’s school records (basic information such as name, gender, date of birth) and ask your child to complete some reading tests. We will keep information confidential and only use it for research and evaluation purposes. Information about your child will be combined with that from other pupils in the project to prepare reports. At no time will your child’s identity or individual data be reported. It is the school’s decision to deliver the Reading Plus programme, but it is your decision whether we can include your child’s information in the evaluation. Participation in the evaluation is voluntary. You are free to ask us not to collect any further information about your child and/or ask that any information we have already collected is deleted until August 31st 2025, without giving a reason.

Requests to withdraw your child from the evaluation and/or to delete information already collected after this point may not be possible if the data has already been anonymised as we will not know which data (e.g. test scores) belong to your child. Your decision will not adversely affect your child’s grades or access to services or programs at your child’s school.

Before you make a decision, please read this Parent Information Sheet and the attached Privacy Notice carefully. The Privacy Notices for the project can also be accessed here: <http://tinyurl.com/ycywbptb> . Keep both sheets for future reference. If you have any questions, please speak with a member of the study team (contact information is in section 9).

1. **What will your child be asked to do?**

*Summer 2024: Recruitment and set-up (all schools)*

* Schools share basic data on all children who will be in Year 5 in September 2024 with the Data Collection and Evaluation teams (see attached Privacy Notice for details).
* Year 5 pupils complete a Feelings about Reading Questionnaire in June/July 2024. This online survey takes 10 minutes and is administered by the class teacher. The survey asks children questions about how they feel about reading (e.g. how confident they are as a reader and how much they enjoy reading) and takes 10 minutes. We call this the ‘pre-test’ because it happens before the Reading Plus intervention takes place. After this, schools are allocated to the intervention or control group.
* We will also collect children’s reading scores from the KS1 reading test (SATS), completed in Summer 2022. This will provide us with an additional pre-test score.

*Autumn – Summer 2024/2025:*

* Year 5 teachers in intervention schools receive Reading Plus training in September 2024. Teachers deliver Reading Plus sessions for at least 90 minutes per week, over at least 2 separate sessions, e.g., 2 x 45 minutes or 3 x 30 minutes a week (October 2024 – May 2025).

*Summer 2025:*

* In June/July 2025, all Year 5 pupils complete an online reading assessment test (New PiRA) and retake the Feelings about Reading Questionnaire. The online PiRA reading test takes about 40 minutes. Ten pupils from one class (selected at random) will also complete a silent reading fluency (where pupils are asked to read sentences in their head and then mark them as true or false), reading comprehension and vocabulary test (using the KTEA-3 assessment tool) one-to-one with a test administrator. The three tests take about 30 minutes in total. The KTEA-3 tests will be audio-recorded using a password protected voice recorder to allow quality assurance of the testing process. All recordings will be stored securely and deleted as soon as the data has been analysed. Test administrators, from Alpha Plus, will be appropriately trained and have Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service clearance (DBS). We call these the ‘post-tests’ as they take place after the Reading Plus intervention.
* In intervention schools the evaluation team will also collect data from the Reading Plus platform, e.g., how often the children use Reading Plus and their scores on the reading activities that they engage with.

*Summer 2026:*

* To study longer term impact, the EEF designated archive evaluator, Durham University, may use the National Pupil Database (held by the Department for Education) to collect your child’s Key Stage 2 results in English. This will be done in a way that does not enable your child to be identified.

1. **What are the risks and benefits if my child participates?**

Before contacting you, we gained full support from the headteacher and classroom teacher at your child’s school. We encouraged them to consider the risks and benefits before making a decision to participate in the evaluation. If your child is in a control school, the school will carry on teaching literacy as they did before participating in the project. If your child is in an intervention school, then Reading Plus will replace a similar reading activity from October 2024 to May 2025. Evidence from other research suggests that this intervention could have a positive impact on reading attainment. Children in both intervention and control schools will be asked to take part in some reading assessments and a Feelings about Reading Questionnaire. There is a small risk that children might not enjoy or might become upset taking the reading tests or survey. However, the tests are similar to the kinds of tests that children engage with as part of everyday assessments in schools. If a child indicates that they do not want to take part in a test/survey that they are being asked to do as part of the evaluation, or if they seem unhappy or uncomfortable with the activity, the test administrator/teacher will not continue with the test.

1. **What will happen with the data from my child?**

Manchester Metropolitan University (Manchester Met) will work with the Delivery Team (Reading Solutions UK) to deliver this project. Manchester Met and Reading Solutions UK are what’s known as ‘Independent Controllers’ for the personal data processed. We have also enlisted the help of two other organisations, acting as ‘Data Processors’: FFT Education and AlphaPlus. FFT Education will collect your child’s personal data (information from which they could be identified) and their KS1 reading SATS score (from the SATS tests in summer 2022) from the school on our behalf. AlphaPlus will oversee the administration of the pre-test and post-tests. They will arrange for test administrators to visit all schools to administer the KTEA-3 tests (silent reading fluency, reading comprehension and vocabulary) to 10 randomly selected pupils from each school.

The data from the New PiRA reading test, collected at the end of the project, will be shared with your child’s school. Your child’s school may choose to share this data with you and/or your child as part of their normal reporting procedures on your child’s progress, particularly if your child’s school already uses New PiRA to assess pupils’ progress in reading.

At the end of the project, Manchester Met will transfer some of your child’s personal data to the funder, for them to store indefinitely in their secure archive. The funder is the Education Endowment Foundation. The funder becomes the ‘Data Controller’ for your child’s data once they receive it from us, so will be responsible for the data from that point on. This data includes the New PiRA reading attainment test data, KTEA-3 reading test data and data from the Feelings about Reading Questionnaire. The funders will remove key identifiers from the data (such as name and date of birth) and replace it with a unique reference number. This will allow the record to be matched with the National Pupil Database record about your child, which contains further information about them (such as Key Stage 2 SATs results), for the purpose of research. The archive may be used for future research by a range of institutions, but the funder will never reveal your child’s identity, and will be sure to fully anonymise the data set before access is granted. It is still important for you to consider if you and your child are happy for this data to be shared and stored by the funder, as it is still considered to be personal data under the UK Data Protection legislation, even with key identifiers removed. The EEF’s privacy notice for the archive can be found here: <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/privacy-notices/privacy-notice-for-the-eef-data-archive>.

The data protection legislation requires that we provide you with a range of other information, including our lawful basis for processing your child’s personal data, how long we will hold it for, how you can exercise any of your data subject rights (such as the right to object) or contact our data protection officer and how you are able to complain to the Information Commissioner. We have compiled a detailed Privacy Notice, which accompanies this document and provides more detail about how we collect, process, and share your child’s data. Please do read this document and decide if you would like your child to take part in this project. **Please note that you will need to complete the Withdrawal Form below if you would not like your child to be involved, because we are not relying on ‘consent’ as a lawful basis.**

Manchester Met is registered with the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) and manages personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Manchester Met’s Data Protection Policy.

Data will be transferred and stored securely, and only retained for as long as is necessary. You are free to ask us not to collect any further data about your child and/or ask that any data we have already collected is deleted until August 31st 2025, without giving a reason. Requests to withdraw your child from the evaluation and/or to delete data already collected after this point may not be possible but will always be considered.

It is Manchester Met’s policy to only publish anonymised data (with no personal data that can identify an individual). **Manchester Met** **never sells personal data to third parties.**

For further information about use of your child’s personal data and your child’s data protection rights please see Manchester Met’s Data Protection Pages at <https://www2.mmu.ac.uk/data-protection/>.

1. **What will happen to the results of the research study?**

The results of the main phase of the research, focusing on pupils in Year 5 as of September 2024, will be freely available and published in a report by July 2026. The evaluation team and the delivery team may publish articles in academic journals once the main reports have been published or report findings at academic or teacher-focused events. All participants and schools will be fully anonymised in any reporting (that is, your child will not be identifiable in the project reports or any articles that are published).

1. **Who has approved this research?**

This project has been commissioned by the EEF and received ethical approval from Manchester Metropolitan University. It is conducted in accordance with the British Educational Research Association and British Psychological Society guidelines.

1. **Who do I contact if I have concerns about this study or I wish to complain?**

If you have any concerns about the Reading Plus programme, please contact the Project Director: Ian Fitzpatrick, at Reading Solutions UK. info@readingsolutionsuk.com 0191 389 6078.

If you have any concerns about the evaluation, please contact Dr Steph Ainsworth at [s.ainsworth@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:s.ainsworth@mmu.ac.uk), or telephone 0161 247 2344, or in writing to: Faculty of Health and Education, Manchester Metropolitan University, Brooks Building, 53 Bonsall Street, Manchester, M15 6GX.

If you have any concerns regarding the ethical procedures adopted during this research, please contact the Faculty Head of Research Ethics and Governance, Dr Claire Fox at FOHE-Ethics@mmu.ac.uk, or in writing to: Faculty of Health and Education, Manchester Metropolitan University, Brooks Building, 53 Bonsall Street, Manchester, M15 6GX.

If you have any concerns regarding the personal data collected from you, the Manchester Met Data Protection Officer can be contacted using the [legal@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:legal@mmu.ac.uk) e-mail address, by calling 0161 247 3331 or in writing to: Data Protection Officer, Legal Services, All Saints Building, Manchester Metropolitan University, Manchester, M15 6BH. You also have a right to lodge a complaint in respect of the processing of your personal data with the Information Commissioner’s Office as the supervisory authority. Please see: <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/> We would encourage you to expend our internal complaints procedure through our initial contact and the University Data Protection Officer, prior to contacting the ICO.

**Thank you very much for your time!**

**PARENT/CARER RESEARCH PROJECT WITHDRAWAL SLIP**

EVALUATION OF READING PLUS

Please only complete if you **DO NOT** want your child’s data to be used in this research project.

If you are happy for your child’s data to contribute to this project, then you do not have to do anything.

If you **DO NOT** want your child’s data to be used for this evaluation, you can withdraw your child by returning this form to the school.

I, the undersigned, hereby **DO NOT** give permission for my child’s data to be used for the purposes of the evaluation of the Reading Plus programme.

Child’s full name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class/form\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_