



# Evaluation of Pathways Literacy

## by The Literacy Company

The Literacy Company is delighted to be partnering with the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) and Oxford MeasurEd to evaluate the Pathways Literacy programme. Pathways Literacy is a programme aiming to improve pupils' writing attainment, enjoyment and stamina using a structured approach to teaching grammar skills.

This pilot evaluation will assess the impact of Pathways Literacy on pupils in Year 3. For participating schools, Literacy Company planning, resources and training will be provided free of charge making this an exciting opportunity to inspire both pupils and staff.

The Literacy Company is an experienced and dedicated team who share a passion for English. Their consultants work with schools nationally to enhance the curriculum and improve standards.

### What is Pathways Literacy?

This pilot study incorporates the use of both **Pathways to Write** (P2W) and **Pathways to Progress** (P2P) which form part of the Pathways Literacy programme.

**Pathways to Write** (P2W) offers a structured approach to teaching writing. It follows a mastery learning model, with key skills taught and repeated alongside guided instruction, teacher modelling and scaffolding. Pupils learn to apply skills through incidental short-burst writing opportunities with an extended written task at the end of a unit of work. Each unit is based on a high-quality text and lasts for four to six weeks, depending on the needs of a class. It is designed to support foundational skills and metacognitive strategies and allows opportunities to practise all five stages of the writing process.

P2W should be delivered to the whole class 5 hours per week in the order that units appear in the overview. Supporting documents are included to allow for adaptive teaching to suit the needs of all pupils.

**Pathways to Progress** (P2P) is a linked, targeted writing intervention. Using the same texts as the P2W programme and running concurrently, previously taught skills are set out in half termly units to be delivered by a trained teaching assistant (TA) in three 20-minute sessions per week. Up to six pupils are selected to attend based on independent writing so gaps in skills can be targeted. Different pupils can attend each half term, based on where gaps lie.

Teachers and TAs receive comprehensive training and ongoing support through CPD subject-knowledge videos, learning communities and coaching as well as short, weekly meetings within school.

The focus for this pilot is Year 3 only (Y3). P2W should be delivered in this year group from September 2025 for a full academic year. In the second half of the autumn term, once teachers are confident with the assessment of their pupils' writing, P2P should be introduced.

## Eligibility

We are looking for 20 primary schools to take part in the pilot, selected using the following criteria:

- Schools must be located within the regions listed below.
- Single-age year groups only (Mixed-age group settings will not be considered due to the focus on Y3).
- State schools not taking part in any of the following EEF trials: Writing Roots, Power of Reading, Rehearsal Room Writing, and Tutoring with the Lightning Squad.

## Schools must commit to the following:

- **Subject leader to oversee the project. They are responsible for leading action planning with their Y3 team to change practice over time. They will be supported by a Literacy Company consultant during a termly cluster meeting (1.5hrs) alongside other participating schools to support with the implementation of Pathways Literacy and monitor progress in writing.**
- **Y3 teacher and subject leader released in July for ½ day's training on mastery and P2W.**
- **Y3 teacher, subject leader and TA delivering P2P released in September for a day's P2P training.**
- **Y3 teacher and TA released for ½ day online training in both October and February.**
- **Using P2W planning and resources, teach Y3 for the full academic year 2025-26 with suggested, high-quality texts.**
- **Ring-fence 3 x20 minute intervention sessions per week for allocated TA to deliver P2P to six pupils Working Towards Expected Standard using planning and resources provided.**
- **Y3 teacher and P2P TA meet weekly to discuss progress, make adaptations and complete any necessary documentation.**
- **Ensure P2P TA watches short, relevant CPD videos to support subject knowledge.**

## What are the benefits for my setting?

- Schools who sign up for the pilot will receive all planning, resources and supporting materials for Y3 P2W and P2P free of charge.
- Subject leaders, teachers and TAs will benefit from training with The Literacy Company consultants, reflecting key messages from the latest educational research.
- By taking part in the pilot study, participating schools are adding to the evidence base and knowledge on what works well in writing education in England.

## How will Pathways Literacy be evaluated?

The purpose of this pilot is to evaluate the potential of the Pathways Literacy programme. Led by Oxford MeasurEd, the evaluator, this pilot will specifically investigate whether Pathways Literacy:

- provides indicative evidence that the programmes deliver on expected outcomes
- demonstrates that the programmes can be delivered using an approach that is feasible and acceptable for schools, staff and children
- finds the programmes are ready to be tested at scale for wider impact

Staff from participating schools are expected to complete online evaluation surveys and interviews. Some schools will be selected for an in-person visit by the Oxford MeasurEd team, incorporating:

- individual interviews with the subject leader, teacher and TA
- observation of a P2W and P2P session
- group discussion with Y3 pupils taking part in P2P

A different group of five schools will be asked to try out a short 10-minute paper-based questionnaire about attitudes to writing to Y3 pupils at the end of the programme.

The full requirements of the evaluation are set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Schools will need to agree to take part in the evaluation to be selected for the Pathways Literacy pilot.

## How will data be used?

All data collected as part of the study will be treated with the strictest confidence by Oxford MeasurEd and The Literacy Company in line with the requirements of UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Oxford MeasurEd will provide a privacy notice explaining the full detail of what data will be used for the evaluation, how it will be used, and why. This privacy notice will be shared with all participants, and with your school before you sign a Memorandum of Understanding committing to take part in the pilot.

Findings from the evaluation will be published in a report on the EEF website and used by The Literacy Company to inform programme updates. No names of schools or other identifiable information will be reported.

## What do I need to do now?

If you are interested in taking part in the pilot evaluation of Pathways Literacy, please complete the **Expression of Interest (EOI)**, following the link below. You will then be sent further information about the next steps. Once your eligibility is confirmed, you will be sent a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**.

Please return this to The Literacy Company at [eefproject@theliteracycompany.co.uk](mailto:eefproject@theliteracycompany.co.uk) by **16th May 2025**.

## Where can I find out the results of this pilot evaluation?

At the end of the programme, a final report will be written by the evaluation team. This report will be published on the EEF's website ([educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk](http://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)) in Spring 2027.

## Who do I contact if I have further questions?

Questions about the Pathways Literacy pilot? Please contact the delivery team at The Literacy Company or follow the link below:

[eefproject@theliteracycompany.co.uk](mailto:eefproject@theliteracycompany.co.uk)

**Link to website:** [www.theliteracycompany.co.uk/eef-pathways-literacy/](http://www.theliteracycompany.co.uk/eef-pathways-literacy/)

**Link to EOI:** <https://share-eu1.hsforms.com/26DkH89I7TDiJqZvd1R3ShAfhd0b>

**Link to FAQs:** <https://26004251.fs1.hubspotusercontent-eu1.net/hubfs/26004251/EEF/EEF%20FAQs.pdf>

**Privacy notice:** <https://www.theliteracycompany.co.uk/privacy-policy/>

**Pathways to Write Research Document:** <https://www.theliteracycompany.co.uk/unveiling-the-research-behind-pathways-to-write-a-mastery-approach-to-primary-school-writing/>

The Literacy Company, Suite A, 3rd Floor, Linenhall House, Stanley Street, Chester, CH1 2LR

Questions about the evaluation? Please contact the evaluation team at Oxford MeasurEd:  
[PL-evaluation@oxfordmeasured.co.uk](mailto:PL-evaluation@oxfordmeasured.co.uk)



## Local Authorities eligible for the pilot

Derby
Derbyshire
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire
Cambridgeshire
Norfolk
Blackburn with Darwen
Blackpool
Bolton
Bury
Cheshire East
Cheshire West and Chester
Cumbria
Halton
Knowsley
Lancashire
Liverpool
Manchester
Oldham
Rochdale
Salford
Sefton
St. Helens
Stockport
Tameside

Trafford
Warrington
Wigan
Wirral
Birmingham
Coventry
Dudley
Sandwell
Shropshire
Solihull
Staffordshire
Stoke-on-Trent
Telford and Wrekin
Walsall
Wolverhampton
Barnsley
Bradford
Calderdale
Doncaster
Kirklees
Leeds
Rotherham
Sheffield
Wakefield
York