

OxEd Whole Class and Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI) Effectiveness Research Trial 2026-2027

Information for parents and carers

Dear parent/carers,

We are writing to let you know that your child's school is taking part in an effectiveness research trial of OxEd Whole Class and Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI). These are programmes designed by OxEd to improve Reception pupils' oral language.

- The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) is funding the research trial.
- The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) is the independent evaluator. This means they will collect and analyse information to understand whether the programmes are making a difference to pupils' oral language skills.
- OxEd have designed the programmes and will provide the training and resource materials to the schools.

This letter is being shared with parents and carers of children starting Reception in the 2026 – 27 academic year at schools taking part in the research trial.

This letter provides more information about the project and what it will involve for your child. Your child's school is sharing this letter with you on behalf of NFER.

What is OxEd Whole Class and NELI?

Both programmes involve supporting Reception pupils' language development through structured and engaging activities over 20 weeks, alongside high-quality training and resources for staff.

- OxEd Whole Class provides weekly whole-class language enrichment activities delivered by teachers with all pupils in the class.
- NELI provides weekly small-group and individual sessions for pupils who would benefit from additional support with their language skills. NELI sessions are delivered by teaching support staff (usually a TA) and are designed to provide additional tailored teaching and opportunities to practice language skills in a supportive environment.

What will the research trial involve?

This trial aims to assess the impact of whole-class language enrichment when delivered on its own or alongside additional targeted support. The trial will use a randomized controlled trial (RCT) design, with schools being randomly allocated to one of three groups:

1. OxEd Whole Class only (intervention group)
2. OxEd Whole Class plus NELI (intervention group)

3. Control group (who will continue with usual practice)

What will the research involve for my child?

Reception pupils who take part in the trial will be assessed with LanguageScreen (a short digital assessment and screening tool) in Autumn term 2026–27 by school staff. After this, schools will be randomly assigned to one of the three groups. Schools randomly allocated to the intervention groups will receive free training, resources, and delivery support to implement the programme(s). The control group will continue with their usual teaching practice.

If your child’s school is in one of the intervention groups and the school agrees to take part in further optional research, an NFER researcher may visit to observe a session being delivered during the Spring or Summer term 2026-27.

At the end of the Summer term 2026–27 after the programme deliveries are complete, selected pupils from all participating schools will be assessed with LanguageScreen and the Renfrew Action Picture Test (RAPT) by NFER Test Administrators.

Further information about the project and what it involves can be found [here](#)

What are the benefits and risks of my child taking part?

We do not anticipate any risks or harm to the school, teachers or pupils participating in this study. This study has been approved by NFER’s research ethics committee. NFER has safeguarding protocols in place to protect children during the research activities and schools will know what these procedures are.

By participating in this study, your child will be helping us to understand if the Whole Class and NELI programmes improve children’s language skills, how programme delivery can be enhanced and strengthen evidence on what works in primary education.

All schools participating in the trial will receive financial recognition for completing research activities. In addition, schools in the control group will receive a separate payment that can be used towards the purchase of OxEd Whole Class after the trial.

How will NFER use and protect the data collected?

NFER has robust procedures in place to make sure that we comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which sets out how data can be collected and stored securely. No individuals (pupils, teachers, schools) will be identifiable in any published outputs from this research trial.



After the report is published, NFER will submit child data with school and teacher details to the EEF archive. For further details about how we will collect, use, and protect personal data collected during this trial, see the Parent/Carer privacy notice available [here](#).

How will findings be used?

The findings from this study will be published so that schools can read about it. NFER's final independent research evaluation report will be published in May 2029, and will be available on the Education Endowment Foundation's website: www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk

No school, teacher or child will be named in the report, and we will not include any other information that may mean someone else could identify them. No identifiable children's data will be made public. The children's assessment scores from LanguageScreen will be shared with their school at the end of the evaluation.

What happens if I want to withdraw my child from the trial?

We hope that you consent to your child's participation in the trial and for their data to be shared with us. If you would prefer that your child's data is is not shared, please complete the 'Parent/Carer Withdrawal Form' below and return it to your child's schools as soon as possible. The school will then ensure that your child's data is not shared as part of the trial. If you are happy for your child to participate in the trial, you do not need to do anything.

You can also withdraw your child's data from being used in this research at any time after the trial has started and up until July 2027, when the data will be analysed. To do this you should complete the form below and share it with your child's school, who will inform us of your request.

Who can I contact for more information?

If you have any questions about this evaluation, please contact: NFERwholeclass@nfer.ac.uk

Thank you for reading this information sheet and please keep for your future reference.

Withdrawal form

Please only return this form to your child's school if you **DO NOT wish your child's data to be shared, stored, archived and used for this research.**

☐ I do **NOT** want data about my child to be collected, stored, archived and used as part of the OxEd Whole-Class and NELI trial.

Your child's name.....Child's class.....

Name of school.....

Your full name.....

Your telephone number (optional).....

Your signature..... Date.....