

Efficacy Trial of the Rehearsal Room Writing Programme

Parent Information and Consent Form

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We are writing to let you know that your child's school is participating in an evaluation of the Rehearsal Room Writing (RRW) programme developed and delivered by the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC).

Who is conducting the study?

The study has been commissioned by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF). The funding for this project and evaluation is from the Department for Education (DfE)'s Accelerator Fund, which aims to expand the use of evidence-based programmes. The RSC is responsible for the teacher training for the programme. The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) will be evaluating the programme in collaboration with the University of Exeter.

What is the Rehearsal Room Writing (RRW) Programme?

The RSC is a registered charity that creates world-class theatre and works with young people, teachers, artists, and adults in classrooms, on stages, online and in communities to bring Shakespeare's work to life. The RRW programme aims to stimulate pupil engagement in, and enjoyment of, classroom activities, including providing pupils with a powerful motivation to write.

How will the programme be evaluated?

The research trial will evaluate the impact of receiving the RRW programme on pupils' writing ability, alongside their enjoyment of writing and their belief in their writing ability. In order to do this, participating schools will either be randomly assigned to the intervention group (receives the RRW programme) or the control group (continues with usual practice).

If your child's school is assigned to the intervention group, a Year 5 teacher will be trained by expert RSC staff to deliver RRW sessions to their Year 5 pupils as part of their normal English lesson time. If your child's school is assigned to the control group, they will continue their English lessons as normal.

What are the evaluation activities for my child?

The evaluation will include the following key activities for participating Year 5 pupils:

- a short writing assessment at the beginning and end of the project
- a survey at the beginning and end of the project

The surveys will explore pupils' enjoyment of writing, writing confidence and speaking confidence.

Your child may be asked to participate in an in-person focus group with an NFER researcher. In this case, further information will be provided to you, and your child will only participate with your agreement.

What are the benefits of my child taking part?

By participating in the trial, all schools will not only help to improve understanding of the impact of the RRW programme on Year 5 pupil writing skills but also contribute to the education evidence base that informs efforts to improve outcomes for all children.

How will the findings be used?

A summary of the findings will be shared with participating schools and will also be freely available on the NFER and EEF websites.

How will my child's data be used?

Some basic data about your child will be collected from your child's school (e.g., name, gender, date of birth, unique pupil number, Free School Meals (FSM) status) by NFER. **All data for each child will be kept strictly confidential and only used for delivering and evaluating the programme.** All parties comply with GDPR requirements and have robust GDPR procedures in place.

Pupils' writing responses will be scanned into No More Marking's (NMM) platform to use Comparative Judgement to mark the writing task. Only pseudonymised¹ data will be shared with NMM. Some pseudonymised data will also be shared with the University of Exeter. NMM and the University of Exeter will not be able to be able to link writing assessment responses to individual children.

Further information about this trial can be found on the project web page:

<https://www.nfer.ac.uk/for-schools/participate-in-research/participate-in-research-projects/efficacy-trial-of-the-rehearsal-room-writing-programme/>. The web page includes links to the project privacy notices, including one for parents/carers of pupils. The privacy notice for parents/carers summarises what personal data will be collected on your son or daughter, and how this data will be collected, used, shared and protected. **No pupil, school or teacher will be named in any report arising from this work.**

What do I need to do?

If you are happy for your child's data to be used for this research, **you do not need to do anything.**

Although we value their participation in this evaluation and contribution to important findings, **you can withdraw your child from data collection activities at any time.** If you withdraw your child from the project, we will use any data we have collected up to that point unless

¹ Pseudonymisation is a technique that replaces or removes information that identifies an individual (like names or other meaningful identifiers) in a data set.

you ask us to delete it. Please note that data deletion will not be possible once data analysis has commenced (from September 2026).

Withdrawing from the evaluation will not impact your child's involvement in the RRW programme, just their inclusion in the evaluation.

If, at this stage, you would prefer your child's data not to be shared, stored and used for this research project, please complete the form below and return it to your child's teacher as soon as possible. If you have any queries, please contact us via email at: RRW-trial@nfer.ac.uk

Yours sincerely,
NFER and RSC

Efficacy Trial of the Rehearsal Room Writing Programme: Withdrawal form from data processing for parents

You only need to complete this form if you **DO NOT** wish your child's data to be shared, stored and used for this evaluation.

I **DO NOT** give permission for data about my child that is collected as part of the delivery or evaluation of RRW to be stored or used for research purposes.

Your child's name

Name of school

Your full name

Your signatureDate.....