

Effectiveness Trial of 1stClass@Number 1

Frequently asked questions

Is recruitment still open?

Unfortunately, the recruitment for the 1stClass@Number 1 (1CN1) trial has now closed.

Does the school key contact need to be the same person as either the person selected to be the Teaching Assistant or Link Teacher?

The key contact does not necessarily need to be one of the people nominated for the Teaching Assistant or Link Teacher roles. Further guidance on selecting the Teaching Assistant and Link Teacher can be found on your School Portal.

What should I do if a pupil was absent for the group QRT baseline assessment?

If a pupil was absent for the QRT group administration, do try to administer the test at a later date within the testing window, ONLY as long as you have enough time to complete the Sandwell as well before the final day of testing. Please note that completion of the Sandwell assessment is a prerequisite to be eligible to participate in the trial. You may administer the Sandwell to pupils who did not sit the QRT.

How do I select pupils after NFER's recommendation on the Sandwell results?

You can either choose to proceed with the pupils recommended by NFER to the trial or replace some of the recommended pupils. Further details on the criteria that NFER applied to make the recommendations as well as guidance for schools to finalise their selection can be found [here](#).

Our school would like to replace a pupil recommended by NFER. Is this possible?

NFER will recommend eight pupils from each school to be selected to the trial. Our recommendation is based on a combination of pupils' FSM eligibility status and their raw

score in the Sandwell assessment. FSM pupils recommended by NFER are automatically selected the trial. We don't recommend replacing recommended FSM pupils. However, if you would like to replace FSM pupils selected to the trial, you will need to contact NFER to make this change. You have the option of replacing recommended non-FSM pupils with other non-FSM pupils. In this scenario, please consider selecting pupils with a Sandwell raw score below 50.

Can schools use the Sandwell assessment pack provided as part of the trial for future assessments?

Yes, schools can use the Sandwell assessment pack provided as part of the trial to assess pupils in future cohorts. You may need to order additional test papers to carry out these assessments. To do this, you will need to contact GL Assessment, the provider of the Sandwell assessment. Further details are available online at <https://www.gl-assessment.co.uk/>.

Will schools receive the results of the QRT?

Due to the QRT assessment being part of the trial's analysis, schools will not receive these results.

Who should I contact if I have any questions about the 1CN1 training?

Edge Hill University (EHU) is the training delivery partner for the 1CN1 trial. Please contact EHU's Every Child Counts (ECC) team at ECC@edgehill.ac.uk.

When and where will the training be?

Edge Hill University (EHU) is the training delivery partner for the 1CN1 trial. The delivery of the face-to-face training will take place in two cohorts:

- November 2023 – March 2024 over 1 full and 4 half days.
- January – May 2024 over 1 full and 4 half days.

For further information about where the training will be taking place, please contact the EHU's ECC team at ECC@edgehill.ac.uk.

What should schools do if the Link teacher or TA cannot attend a training session?

Whilst in normal circumstances, we expect that the TA and/or link teacher nominated by schools would attend training, there may be unforeseen circumstances due to which teachers might need to be replaced ahead of training. In this situation, please contact EHU and NFER and share the details of the new staff member who will attend training.

If a TA or link teacher is unable to attend a specific training session, please contact EHU's ECC team at ECC@edgehill.ac.uk to arrange a catch-up session, where possible.

What should schools do if contacted by NFER to observe delivery of 1CN1 sessions by TAs?

NFER researchers will approach a sample of schools to conduct observations of the delivery of 1CN1 sessions by TAs. This will involve an NFER researcher observing a 1CN1 session and then having a short reflective discussion (around 15 minutes) with the TA who delivered it. The purpose of these observation sessions is to help the researchers understand how the 1CN1 sessions are being delivered by TAs and their perspectives/reflections on delivery, any differences between schools/regions, and how pupils engage with and respond to the sessions.

This data will form a part of our implementation and process evaluation and will help us understand the reasons underlying the impact of 1CN1 on pupils' maths outcomes. If NFER researchers contact your school requesting to schedule an observation visit, please respond to their request at the earliest opportunity so that they have sufficient time to plan the visit. You can choose to not participate in the lesson observations, but please notify us of your decision at the earliest opportunity.

I have a pupil who wants to withdraw from the trial during the intervention, what should I do?

Please inform NFER, by phoning **01753 637096** to let us know that a pupil would like to withdraw. We will need to know why the pupil is being withdrawn for our recording purposes. Where possible, it would be very beneficial for the trial if the pupil is still able to complete the endpoint assessment, even if they were unable to take part in the intervention. Please let us know in the call if this would be possible.

What should schools do if a pupil who has been assigned to the intervention group is absent for a session during the intervention?

Pupil attendance should be recorded on a register and will be collected at the end of the intervention. Please mark the absence on the pupil attendance register that is shared with

schools via school portal. Please try to run a catch-up session for the pupil where possible. If a pupil is unable to attend a training session, do not substitute them with another pupil.

A pupil assigned to the intervention or control group has left the school. What should I do?

If the intervention period has not yet started, please email NFER at 1CN1trial@nfer.ac.uk to let us know a pupil has left. If a pupil leaves mid-way through the intervention, please record that they have left on the pupil attendance register if they are an intervention pupil or on the intervention record if they are a control pupil.

My school has been unable to deliver the intervention, what should I do?

Please inform NFER, by phoning **01753 637096** or emailing 1CN1trial@nfer.ac.uk to explain why your school is unable to deliver the intervention. As per your agreement when signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), NFER will still use the trial data your school has provided and access NPD data for your school unless you state otherwise. Schools that withdraw from the intervention will be asked to complete all the evaluation activities including the endpoint assessment. Schools would still receive the thank you payment upon completion of evaluation activities.

When will the endpoint assessment take place?

The endpoint assessment will take place in March 2024 for schools in the November training group and May - June 2024 for schools in the January training group.

Will schools need to administer the Endpoint assessment?

An NFER Test Administrator (TA) will carry out the administration of the endpoint assessment. NFER will be in contact with schools to ask for their availability in the testing window in order to allocate a TA to visit schools. The TA will bring with them all the materials required for the assessment, administer the assessment, and take away all materials to return back to NFER, thus reducing the administrative burden on schools.

How long will the endpoint assessment take?

Pupils will be required to take part in a Quantitative Reasoning Assessment (QRT). The test will be administered in a group to both intervention and control pupils. The assessment should take no longer than 45 minutes and Test Administrators will likely spend no longer than 90 minutes at your school.

What should my school do if contacted by NFER for case study visits?

NFER researchers will contact a small number of schools about case study visits. Each case study visit will include an interview with the TA (approx. 40 mins), an interview with the LT (approx. 40 mins) and a focus group with intervention pupils (approx. 40 mins) to gather their views about the intervention. If your school agrees to participate in the case study visits, NFER researchers will send you an opt-in consent form that needs to be signed by pupils' parents/carers to provide explicit consent for their children to participate in the focus groups. Case study visits will be organised in Feb – March 2024 for November training group schools and in May - June 2024 for the January training group schools. If your school is approached to participate in a case study but would prefer not to, please let us know as soon as possible.

Contact Information

NFER email address: 1CN1trial@nfer.ac.uk

NFER contact number: **01753 637096**

Edge Hill ECC team email address: ECC@edgehill.ac.uk

Edge Hill ECC team phone number: **01695 657 133**