

# Evaluating the Research on the Instruction of Literacy with Language (RILL) intervention programme children learning through the medium of Welsh

<b>Submission date</b> 23/09/2022	<b>Recruitment status</b> No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered
<b>Registration date</b> 27/09/2022	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
<b>Last Edited</b> 03/03/2025	<b>Condition category</b> Mental and Behavioural Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan
		<input type="checkbox"/> Results
		<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

The Remote Instruction of Language and Literacy (RILL: <https://www.rillresearch.org>) programme was conceived in early 2020 in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. In its current form, it provides a fun and intensive 10-week language and literacy programme that can be delivered either through the medium of English or through the medium of Welsh. Crucially, it applies cutting-edge knowledge from reading science – i.e., what works – and it can be delivered to the child in their home or in the classroom. It is therefore potentially available to highly disadvantaged children (school non-attenders) as well as those able to attend school. The aim of this study is to evaluate the RILL intervention programme with children learning through the medium of Welsh.

### Who can participate?

Children who are in Key Stage 2 (8 – 10 years) with reading difficulties enrolled in mainstream Welsh-medium primary schools in Wales.

### What does the study involve?

The study involves participants completing short screening tasks to assess their reading ability. This is followed by completing short assessment activities measuring reading, writing and language skills, online with a teaching assistant present. Some children will then complete the RILL programme, which is a set of lessons targeting reading and related skills. They will complete these lessons twice a week for 15 weeks, 45 minutes per lesson. Other children will complete classroom activities as normal and the RILL programme at a later date.

We assess children at three time points: once before the intervention, once at the end of the intervention at 15 weeks and once at the follow up 15 weeks later. This shows us how children have gained and maintained their language and literacy skills.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

Possible benefits are children's literacy will improve, teaching assistants' skill levels in delivering interventions will improve, and schools will benefit from support from the team. The researchers anticipate no risk to participants or schools.

Where is the study run from?

Bangor University in collaboration with Leeds Trinity University and the University of Oxford (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

March 2022 to May 2024

Who is funding the study?

Welsh Government

Who is the main contact?

1. Prof Manon Jones, manon.jones@bangor.ac.uk
2. Dr Cameron Downing, cameron.downing@york.ac.uk

### **Study website**

<https://sites.google.com/view/rillcymraeg-english/evaluating-rill?authuser=0>

## **Contact information**

### **Type(s)**

Principal Investigator

### **Contact name**

Prof Manon Jones

### **ORCID ID**

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3266-5472>

### **Contact details**

Brigantia Building  
Penrallt Road  
Bangor University  
Bangor  
United Kingdom  
LL57 2AS  
+44 (0)1248382319  
manon.jones@bangor.ac.uk

### **Type(s)**

Scientific

### **Contact name**

Dr Cameron Downing

### **ORCID ID**

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7350-4048>

**Contact details**

Leeds Trinity University  
Brownberrie Lane  
Leeds  
United Kingdom  
LS18 5HD  
+44 (0)1132837100  
cameron.downing@york.ac.uk

**Type(s)**

Scientific

**Contact name**

Dr Marketa Caravolas

**ORCID ID**

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4171-482X>

**Contact details**

Brigantia Building  
Penrallt Road  
Bangor University  
Bangor  
United Kingdom  
LL57 2AS  
+44 (0)1248388334  
m.caravolas@bangor.ac.uk

**Type(s)**

Scientific

**Contact name**

Prof Charles Hulme

**ORCID ID**

<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9499-5958>

**Contact details**

Brasenose College  
Radcliffe Square  
Oxford  
United Kingdom  
OX1 4AJ  
+44 (0)1865277830  
charles.hulme@education.ox.ac.uk

**Additional identifiers****EudraCT/CTIS number**

Nil known

**IRAS number****ClinicalTrials.gov number**

Nil known

**Secondary identifying numbers**

WG-RILL-001

## Study information

**Scientific Title**

Evaluating the Research on the Instruction of Literacy with Language (RILL) intervention programme for children with reading difficulties, aged 8 - 10 years old, compared with age-matched, wait-list control children, learning through the medium of Welsh, on reading and language measures

**Acronym**

RILL-Cym

**Study objectives**

Children receiving the Research on the Instruction of Literacy with Language (RILL) intervention will make greater gains on literacy and language outcome measures (indices of phonological awareness, word-level decoding and fluency, spelling, and vocabulary) compared with children in the wait-list control group.

**Ethics approval required**

Old ethics approval format

**Ethics approval(s)**

Approved 07/09/2022, Ethics board of the School of Human and Behavioural Sciences (Brigantia Building, Penrallt Road, Bangor University, LL57 2AS, UK; +44 (0)1248388740; c.saville@bangor.ac.uk), ref: 2022-17213

**Study design**

Multicentre interventional concealed randomized controlled trial with wait-list control

**Primary study design**

Interventional

**Secondary study design**

Randomised controlled trial

**Study setting(s)**

School

**Study type(s)**

Treatment

**Participant information sheet**

<https://sites.google.com/view/rillcymraeg-english/teacher-area/evaluation-guide?authuser=0>

## **Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied**

Children with reading difficulties (e.g., developmental dyslexia)

## **Interventions**

For the intervention arm, children will receive the RILL intervention programme twice a week for 15 weeks. Each lesson is administered by a trained teaching assistant and lasts for up to 45 minutes per lesson. The intervention will be administered outside standard literacy instruction.

The waitlist control arm will receive standard instruction during the period that the intervention arm receives RILL. After the children in the intervention arm receive RILL, children in the wait-list control group will then receive RILL (under the same conditions).

## **Intervention Type**

Behavioural

## **Primary outcome measure**

Current primary outcome measure as of 30/01/2024:

Reading measured using the Test of Word Reading Efficiency (TOWRE) at baseline (pretest), post test (15 weeks) and follow up (30 weeks)

Previous primary outcome measure:

Reading measured using the Test of Word Reading Efficiency (TOWRE) at baseline (pretest) and post test (15 weeks)

## **Secondary outcome measures**

Current secondary outcome measures as of 30/01/2024:

1. Welsh word reading measured using an adapted version of the TOWRE at pre-, post-test and follow up
2. Pseudo word reading fluency measured using an adapted version of the TOWRE at pre-, post-test and follow up
3. Phoneme awareness measured using MABEL phoneme deletion in English and Welsh at pre-, post-test and follow up
4. Vocabulary measured using a criterion reference test at pre-, post-test and follow up
5. Rapid naming measured using the MABEL test battery at pre-, post-test and follow up

Previous secondary outcome measures:

1. Welsh word reading measured using an adapted version of the TOWRE at pre and post test
2. Pseudo word reading fluency measured using an adapted version of the TOWRE at pre and post test
3. Phoneme awareness measured using MABEL phoneme deletion in English and Welsh at pre and post test
4. Vocabulary measured using a criterion reference test at pre and post test
5. Rapid naming measured using the MABEL test battery at pre and post test

## **Overall study start date**

31/03/2022

## **Completion date**

30/05/2024

# Eligibility

## Key inclusion criteria

1. Children aged 8 - 10 years old
2. Undertaking Welsh-language instruction at school
3. Normal or corrected-to-normal vision and hearing
4. Identified as having literacy difficulties via a reading screener

## Participant type(s)

Other

## Age group

Child

## Lower age limit

8 Years

## Upper age limit

10 Years

## Sex

Both

## Target number of participants

320

## Key exclusion criteria

Children not in a mainstream school setting

## Date of first enrolment

01/09/2022

## Date of final enrolment

01/12/2022

# Locations

## Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

Wales

## Study participating centre

**Bangor University**

College Road

Bangor

United Kingdom

LL57 2DG

# Sponsor information

## Organisation

GwE

## Sponsor details

c/o Dr Richard Watkins

Bryn Eirias

Ffordd Abergele

Bae Colwyn

Wales

United Kingdom

LL29 8BY

+44 (0)300 500 8087

richardwatkins@gwegogledd.cymru

## Sponsor type

Other

# Funder(s)

## Funder type

Government

## Funder Name

Llywodraeth Cymru

## Alternative Name(s)

Welsh Government, The Welsh Government

## Funding Body Type

Government organisation

## Funding Body Subtype

Local government

## Location

United Kingdom

# Results and Publications

**Publication and dissemination plan**

Planned publication in a high-impact, peer-reviewed journal.

**Intention to publish date**

01/07/2024

**Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan**

The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study will be stored in a publically available repository (<http://reshare.ukdataservice.ac.uk>); raw, anonymised data will become available 12 months after data collection and available indefinitely (or until a date decided upon at a later date). Will be open data, available to anyone via mechanisms available in reshare (the licence applied to the data will be attribution non-commercial share alike: CC BY-NC-SA). Consent will be obtained from participants to share anonymised data.

**IPD sharing plan summary**

Stored in publicly available repository