

School Partnerships Programme: a school-level matched difference in differences evaluation of impact on pupil attainment

Submission date	Recruitment status	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered
17/04/2018	No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date	Overall study status	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan
21/05/2018	Stopped	<input type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited	Condition category	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data
08/09/2021	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

The Education Development Trust (EDT)'s School Partnership Programme (SPP) is a structured approach to cluster-based school collaboration, through the provision of a coherent and consistent approach to peer review that aims to drive improvement across all schools involved in the cluster. The programme aims to develop a culture of partnership working through school self-evaluation, peer review and school-to-school support. The aim of this study is to estimate the effect of participating in the EDT School Partnerships Programme (SPP) for two years on pupils' attainment.

Who can participate?

About 300 state-funded schools in England as part of pre-identified clusters of schools who are happy to commit to participating in the School Partnership Programme. The study focuses on the test scores of those in school Year 6 (age 10-11) when the two year programme ends.

What does the study involve?

300 schools are recruited to implement the SPP programme described above. The change in these schools' performance is compared to the change in specifically chosen comparison schools over the same period.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

SPP is a peer review model that is intended to build capacity and capability across clusters so they can gradually take more responsibility for their own development and maturity, and lead their own improvement. Over time, local areas will own the SPP model, and continue to develop it so it has impact locally. SPP provides frameworks and tools, training and professional support, and is designed to incorporate and build on, not side line, schools' existing best practice.

Where is the study run from?

The study is run by the Education Development Trust and the evaluation is being run by UCL Institute of Education. The study includes schools from across England.

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

May 2017 to December 2020

Who is funding the study?

Education Endowment Foundation (UK)

Who is the main contact?

Dr Jake Anders

Contact information

Type(s)

Scientific

Contact name

Dr Jake Anders

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Contact details

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number

N/A

Study information

Scientific Title

School Partnerships Programme: a school-level matched difference in differences evaluation of impact on pupil attainment

Study objectives

Participation in the School Partnerships Programme for two years improves pupils' attainment

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

UCL Institute of Education Research Ethics Committee, 20/03/2018, ref: REC1040

Study design

School-level matched difference in differences

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Quality of life

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Academic attainment at age 11

Interventions

This is a quasi-experimental intervention study. 300 schools will be recruited to implement the SPP programme.

Treatment: The Education Development Trust (EDT)'s School Partnership Programme (SPP) is a structured approach to cluster-based school collaboration, through the provision of a coherent and consistent approach to peer review that aims to drive improvement across all schools involved in the cluster. The programme aims to develop a culture of partnership working through school self-evaluation, peer review and school-to-school support

Comparison: Business as usual (300 matched comparison schools will be identified from administrative data)

The trialists will then compare the change in these schools' performance to the change in specifically chosen comparator schools over the same period. The intervention continues across a two academic year period and follow up will be based on administrative data collected at the end of this second academic year.

Intervention Type

Behavioural

Primary outcome(s)

School average performance in KS2 maths tests (currently mat_average in administrative datasets) in pre- and post-treatment years, collected from publicly available school-level reports collected by schools from testing conducted during the summer term of each academic year and reported to the UK Department for Education (DfE) in line with national requirements

Key secondary outcome(s)

School average performance in KS2 reading tests (read_average in administrative datasets) in pre- and post-treatment years, collected from publicly available school-level reports collected by schools from testing conducted during the summer term of each academic year and reported to the UK Department for Education (DfE) in line with national requirements

Completion date

31/12/2020

Reason abandoned (if study stopped)

Pandemic

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

Target recruitment was 50 clusters of English state-funded primary schools to be recruited with an approximate cluster size of 6, making 300 schools in total, with the proviso that if cluster size is smaller than expected additional recruitment would be undertaken to bring the number of schools recruited up to 300. In the event, the project team (EDT) successfully recruited far more schools than anticipated, providing a sample of 437 English state-funded primary schools in 85 clusters (average cluster size of just over 5). All recruited schools will receive the intervention, while statistical matching methods will be used to identify the counterfactual group. In order to be considered, schools will have to agree to cooperate with the project and evaluation teams during the trial. The project team will advertise the trial and also approach schools through their existing networks. Where possible it will aim to recruit schools that have larger populations of individuals receiving FSM.

For the evaluation, the study focuses on the test scores of those in school Year 6 (age 10-11) when the two year programme ends.

Participant type(s)

Other

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Other

Sex

All

Key exclusion criteria

1. Independent schools
2. Welsh, Scottish and Northern Irish schools

Date of first enrolment

01/10/2017

Date of final enrolment

28/02/2018

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre

UCL Institute of Education

20 Bedford Way

London

United Kingdom
WC1H 0AL

Study participating centre
Education Development Trust
Highbridge House
16-18 Duke Street
Reading
United Kingdom
RG1 4RU

Sponsor information

Organisation
Education Endowment Foundation (UK)

ROR
<https://ror.org/03bhd6288>

Funder(s)

Funder type
Charity

Funder Name
Education Endowment Foundation

Alternative Name(s)
EducEndowFoundn, Education Endowment Foundation | London, EEF

Funding Body Type
Private sector organisation

Funding Body Subtype
Trusts, charities, foundations (both public and private)

Location
United Kingdom

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study will be stored in a publicly available repository. School-level outcomes data from before, during and after the treatment period for participating and matched comparator schools will be uploaded to the EEF Data Archive (<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/projects-and-evaluation/evaluating-projects/eef-research-papers/>). Access to these data are available to researchers on application to the EEF for analysis to understand educational attainment and inequality. The data we are submitting to this archive are extracted from publicly-available school performance data reported by the UK Data Service.

IPD sharing plan summary

Stored in repository

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<u>Participant information sheet</u>	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes
<u>Study website</u>	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes