

# Evaluating a mastery approach to teaching English in Key Stage 3

<b>Submission date</b> 05/04/2022	<b>Recruitment status</b> No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protocol
<b>Registration date</b> 05/04/2022	<b>Overall study status</b> Ongoing	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 19/07/2023	<b>Condition category</b> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data <input type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

The aim of English Mastery is to improve achievement in the subject of English. This is done by providing teachers with subject-specific training, curriculum materials and ongoing in-school support and coaching.

### Who can participate?

Key Stage 3 pupils (Years 7 and 8, ages 11-13 years).

### What does the study involve?

EM is delivered through in-class teaching during regular timetabled English lessons. Weekly departmental co-planning materials are provided to aid teachers in adapting the English Mastery lessons for their pupils. Teachers also receive training and support through induction, additional training for the KS3 lead, remote development sessions, biannual school coaching visits, Assessing for Mastery standardisation sessions each term and optional webinar workshops. All pupils receive the same dosage and study the same topics, but the foundation curriculum is designed to be accessible to lower attaining pupils (such as through the use of abridged texts).

### What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

Pupils could benefit from higher attainment in English. The intervention is delivered in class and presents no conceivable additional risks.

### Where is the study run from?

Sheffield Institute of Education (UK) is the independent evaluator. Ark Curriculum (UK) have designed the intervention and is responsible for the teacher training and ongoing support for schools.

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

January 2022 to January 2026

### Who is funding the study?

Education Endowment Foundation (UK)

Who is the main contact?  
Dr Martin Culliney, m.culliney@shu.ac.uk

**Study website**

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/projects-and-evaluation/projects/english-mastery-accelerator-fund>

## Contact information

**Type(s)**

Principal Investigator

**Contact name**

Dr Martin Culliney

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## Additional identifiers

**EudraCT/CTIS number**

Nil known

**IRAS number**

**ClinicalTrials.gov number**

Nil known

**Secondary identifying numbers**

Nil known

## Study information

**Scientific Title**

Evaluation of English mastery

**Study objectives**

The mastery approach to English leads to improved attainment among Key Stage 3 pupils as measured by the GL Assessment Progress Test in English

**Ethics approval required**

Old ethics approval format

**Ethics approval(s)**

Approved 26/01/2022, Sheffield Hallam University ethics committee (no address provided; no telephone number provided; ethicssupport@shu.ac.uk), ref: ER40773698

**Study design**

Two-arm three-level cluster randomised controlled trial

**Primary study design**

Interventional

**Secondary study design**

Cluster randomised trial

**Study setting(s)**

School

**Study type(s)**

Other

**Participant information sheet**

No participant information sheet available

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

English teaching in schools

**Interventions**

Current intervention as of 21/07/2022:

The units of randomisation are schools.

Those allocated to the intervention group send their Y7 and Y8 English teachers to training provided by Ark English Mastery. These teachers then teach the relevant cohort (all Y7 pupils in 2022/23 and all Y8 pupils in 2023/24 for cohort 1, or all Y7 pupils in 2023/24 and all Y8 pupils in 2024/25 for cohort 2) using the English Mastery approach. Control schools teach on a 'business-as-usual' basis during this period.

Previous intervention:

The units of randomisation are schools.

Those allocated to the intervention group send their Y7 and Y8 English teachers to training provided by Ark English Mastery. These teachers then teach the relevant cohort (all Y7 pupils in 2022/23 and all Y8 pupils in 2023/24) using the English Mastery approach. Control schools teach on a 'business-as-usual' basis during this period.

**Intervention Type**

Behavioural

**Primary outcome measure**

Current primary outcome measure as of 21/07/2022:

Attainment in English, measured using KS2 Reading and GPS (combined) taken at end of Y6 (2022 for cohort 1, or 2023 for cohort 2) as a baseline and the GL Progress Test in English at end of Y8 (2024 for cohort 1, 2025 for cohort 2)

Previous primary outcome measure:

Attainment in English, measured using KS2 Reading and GPS (combined) taken at end of Y6 (2022) as a baseline and the GL Progress Test in English at end of Y8 (2024)

### **Secondary outcome measures**

Current secondary outcome measures as of 21/07/2022:

Attainment in English, measured using KS2 Reading and GPS (separate) taken at end of Y6 (2022 for cohort 1, or 2023 for cohort 2) as a baseline and the GL Progress Test in English subscales (Reading; Spelling, punctuation and grammar) at end of Y8 (2024 for cohort 1, 2025 for cohort 2)

Previous secondary outcome measures:

Attainment in English, measured using KS2 Reading and GPS (separate) taken at end of Y6 (2022) as a baseline and the GL Progress Test in English subscales (Reading; Spelling, punctuation and grammar) at end of Y8 (2024)

### **Overall study start date**

01/01/2022

### **Completion date**

31/01/2026

## **Eligibility**

### **Key inclusion criteria**

Current participant inclusion criteria as of 21/07/2022:

1. Non-academically selective, state secondary schools
2. In the East Midlands and Humber, North or West Midlands regions of England
3. Not delivered English Mastery previously
4. Has three or more hours of timetabled English lessons for Year 7 in 2022-23 and for Year 8 in 2023-24 (cohort 1), or for Year 7 in 2023-24 and for Year 8 in 2024-25 (cohort 2)

Previous participant inclusion criteria:

1. Non-academically selective, state secondary schools
2. In the East Midlands and Humber, North or West Midlands regions of England
3. Not delivered English Mastery previously
4. Has three or more hours of timetabled English lessons for Year 7 in 2022-23 and for Year 8 in 2023-24

### **Participant type(s)**

Other

### **Age group**

Child

### **Sex**

Both

### **Target number of participants**

8640 pupils across 120 schools. 60 schools will be recruited in 2022 for cohort 1 and 60 schools will be recruited in 2023 for cohort 2.

**Key exclusion criteria**

Does not meet inclusion criteria

**Date of first enrolment**

01/03/2022

**Date of final enrolment**

30/09/2023

**Locations****Countries of recruitment**

England

United Kingdom

**Study participating centre**

**Sheffield Institute of Education**

Arundel Building

Sheffield

United Kingdom

S1 1AY

**Sponsor information****Organisation**

Education Endowment Foundation

**Sponsor details**

5th Floor, Millbank Tower

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England

United Kingdom

SW1P 4QP

+44 204 536 3999

info@eefoundation.org.uk

**Sponsor type**

Charity

**Website**

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/>

**ROR**

## Funder(s)

### Funder type

Government

### Funder Name

Department for Education, UK Government

### Alternative Name(s)

Department for Education, educationgovuk, DfE

### Funding Body Type

Government organisation

### Funding Body Subtype

National government

### Location

United Kingdom

## Results and Publications

### Publication and dissemination plan

The evaluation report will be published on the EEF website

### Intention to publish date

01/07/2026

### Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

At the end of the project, data on all participating pupils will be submitted to the EEF's Data Archive. At this point, EEF and DfE will be data controllers and contractors appointed to manage the Data Archive will be data processors. The evaluation data will also be linked with information about the students from the National Pupil Database (NPD), and shared with Department for Education, the EEF's archive manager and, in an anonymised form, with the Office for National Statistics, the UK Data Archive, and potentially other approved researchers.

### IPD sharing plan summary

Stored in non-publicly available repository, Available on request

### Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Protocol (other)</a>			19/10/2022	No	No