

Evaluation of Quest

Submission date	Recruitment status	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered
16/10/2014	No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Protocol
Registration date	Overall study status	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan
04/12/2014	Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Results
Last Edited	Condition category	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data
09/08/2017	Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

Quest has evolved out of a project called Reading Edge, a computerised reading programme (intervention) that has been used in the United States. It is designed to help struggling readers in early secondary school improve their literacy (reading and writing skills). Pupils are grouped together according to their reading skills, with those furthest behind in the smallest groups. Teaching includes cooperative learning (people working together in groups). Children who are struggling the most with their literacy also receive computer tutoring and one-to-one teaching tailored to meet their own needs (individualised teaching). The programme will run over a whole school year. There is already some evidence that the approach as applied by Quest does work, but it has yet to be tested in the UK. Here, we will test the Quest programme with Year 7 children in England.

Who can participate?

Year 7 pupils (11-12 year olds) in a state secondary school in England.

What does the study involve?

Schools are randomly assigned to either teach Year 7 English using Quest (intervention), or using their usual methods (control) for one school year. Children being taught by the Quest programme are regularly accessed and moved into different groups depending on how they are progressing. The success of the programme will be assessed through a literacy test taken by all the children in the study.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

Anticipated benefits of taking part are improvements in literacy. Teachers in the control group will continue to teach the Year 7 curriculum as usual. There are no anticipated risks to participating.

Where is the study run from?

Queen's University Belfast (UK)

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

January 2013 to December 2014

Who is funding the study?
Education Endowment Foundation (UK)

Who is the main contact?
Dr Andy Biggart

Contact information

Type(s)

Scientific

Contact name

Dr Andy Biggart

Contact details

School of Education
Queen's University Belfast
20 College Green
Belfast
United Kingdom
BT7 1LN

Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number

N/A

Study information

Scientific Title

Cluster randomised controlled trial evaluation of Quest

Acronym

N/A

Study objectives

What is the impact of the programme, at post-test, on reading outcomes for participating students?

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

School of Education Research Ethics Committee, Queens University Belfast and the Ethics Committee of the Department of Education, University of York, 17/04/2013

Study design

Cluster randomised controlled trial

Primary study design

Interventional

Study type(s)

Quality of life

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Improving reading outcomes

Interventions

Schools taking part in the study are randomly allocated to teach English using the Quest programme (intervention) or teach English by their usual means. Quest is a literacy programme in which pupils are grouped according to their reading skills, with smaller classes for those furthest behind. Teaching includes an emphasis on cooperative learning, with computer tutoring and individualised teaching.

Intervention Type

Behavioural

Primary outcome(s)

Literacy - measured using the New Group Reading Test at end of school year.

Key secondary outcome(s)

N/A

Completion date

30/12/2014

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

Year 7 pupils in 30 state secondary schools

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Child

Sex

All

Key exclusion criteria

Not a pupil in Year 7 in a state secondary schools in England

Date of first enrolment

01/01/2013

Date of final enrolment

30/12/2014

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

Northern Ireland

Study participating centre

Queen's University Belfast

School of Education

Belfast

United Kingdom

BT7 1LN

Sponsor information

Organisation

Queen's University Belfast

ROR

<https://ror.org/00hswnk62>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Government

Funder Name

Education Endowment Foundation (UK)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

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