

Evaluation of English Mastery

Submission date 09/04/2020	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	☐ Prospectively registered ☐ Protocol
Registration date 15/04/2020	Overall study status Completed	☐ Statistical analysis plan ☒ Results
Last Edited 28/06/2022	Condition category Other	☐ Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

The intervention being tested is English Mastery, a programme which trains and provides resources to English teachers to deliver a knowledge-rich Key Stage 3 English curriculum.

The expected outcomes from this intervention at the teacher level are an increase on teachers' effectiveness to teach literary texts, grammatical concepts and vocabulary; better understanding of how to use assessment to drive planning and delivery and give feedback to pupils and reduced teacher workload and improved confidence. The programme is expected to help pupils possess the key competences required to succeed at GCSE, A' level, university and beyond.

Who can participate?

English Mastery is designed to be delivered by secondary English teachers. For the evaluation we focus on Year 7 and trace their progress in Year 8.

What does the study involve?

The evaluation is a two-armed cluster randomised controlled trial with 100 schools, half of them under the English Mastery intervention and half of them in a control group.

All pupils in the treatment group enrolled in Year 7 in the academic year 2019-20 are expected to receive the intervention for a period of two years. The trial will use Key Stage 2 English SATs results as a baseline measure of academic attainment (composite score incorporating grammar, spelling, punctuation, language strategies, reading and comprehension). To track progress in learning as a primary outcome, we will measure participating pupils' English attainment in both treatment and control groups at the end of the intervention by administering the GL Progress Test in English (PTE).

The primary outcome is a standardised measure of pupils' English skills and reading comprehension, the GL Progress Test in English (GL PTE). Both the GL PTE SPAG subscale, which measures spelling, grammar and punctuation, and the 'reading comprehension' subscales will be included in the analysis as secondary outcomes. Pupils will be assessed in June 2021, at the end of Year 8 (second year of the intervention).

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

The programme is expected to help pupils gain the key competences required to succeed at GCSE, A' level, university and beyond. There are no risks for participating students.

Where is the study run from?

1. National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) (UK)
2. English Mastery (UK)

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

February 2019 to December 2021

Who is funding the study?

Education Endowment Foundation (UK)

Who is the main contact?

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Contact information

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
NATCEN REF P13637

Study information

Scientific Title
English Mastery: A cluster-randomised efficacy trial

Acronym
English Mastery

Study objectives

1. Participating in English Mastery improves Year 8 pupils' English attainment, as measured in GL's Progress Test in English.
- 2.1. Participating in English Mastery improves Year 8 pupils' spelling, punctuation, and grammar, as well as reading comprehension, as measured by the GL subscales of PTE.
- 2.2. Receiving training and lesson materials reduces teacher workload in and out of class, as measured by a survey of English Mastery teachers.
- 2.3. Participating in English Mastery improves long-term attainment as measured by GCSE results.

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
Approved 11/07/2019, NatCen Social Research Research Ethics Committee (35 Northampton Square, London EC1V 0AX; Recadmin@natcen.ac.uk; +44 0207 250 1866), ref: P13637 English Mastery Trial

Primary study design
Interventional

Study design
Implementation and process evaluation

Study type(s)
Other

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
English attainment at the end of Year 8

Interventions

EM programme aims to implement a coherent and cumulative approach to curriculum design for English teaching including bespoke assessments 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.

EM is a comprehensive programme with two pathways: the traditional curriculum for children reaching age-related expectations, and the foundation curriculum for those working below expectations. All pupils receive the same dosage and study the same topics, but the foundation curriculum is adapted to be accessible to lower attaining pupils (for example, using abridged texts).

The English Mastery curriculum is implemented in regular classrooms of participating schools in England. English Mastery lessons are designed to be delivered six times a week in a way that fits the school timetable. The units run across each school term over two years, the academic years 2019-20 and 2020-21, in which the pupils will be in year 7 and 8.

To facilitate timely programme training delivery among treatment group schools, schools needed to be assigned to treatment and control groups on a rolling basis before the beginning of the new academic year (2019-20). Schools agreeing to participate in the trial will be allocated to one of the two groups utilizing a 'minimisation' algorithm with three prognostic factors and a 1:1 ratio between treatment and control groups, therefore with 50 schools in each group.

Pupils will be assessed in June 2021, at the end of Year 8, the second year of the intervention.

Teachers will complete 3 online surveys on their workload during the intervention period. These surveys will be completed in: September-October 2019 (survey 1), May 2020 (survey 2), and May 2021 (survey 3).

From the sample of trial participants (in both treatment and control schools), 60 individuals will be randomly chosen in each school to take part in testing at the end of the intervention. This group corresponds to the sample of evaluated participants.

Intervention Type

Not Specified

Primary outcome(s)

Current primary outcome measures as of 28/06/2022:

1. Teachers' perception of EM programme design and how the programme is delivered measured using a survey at three timepoints (September 2019, May 2020 and May 2021) and in-depth interviews with teachers at three timepoints (February 2020, October 2020 and April 2021)
2. Teachers' perception of key programme challenges measured using a survey at three timepoints (September 2019, May 2020 and May 2021) and in-depth interviews with teachers at three timepoints (February 2020, October 2020 and April 2021)
3. Teachers' perception of whether they have benefited from the programme and changed their teaching practices measured using a survey at three timepoints (September 2019, May 2020 and May 2021) and in-depth interviews with teachers at three timepoints (February 2020, October 2020 and April 2021)
4. Teachers' perception of the benefits of English Mastery on students in relation to 1) students' enjoyment of studying English and 2) progress in reading and writing measured using a survey at three timepoints (September 2019, May 2020 and May 2021) and in-depth interviews with teachers at three timepoints (February 2020, October 2020 and April 2021)

5. Teachers' perception of whether local and national contextual issues, including changes to school regulations and inspections, affected delivery and adaptation measured using a survey at three timepoints (September 2019, May 2020 and May 2021) and in-depth interviews with teachers at three timepoints (February 2020, October 2020 and April 2021)

Previous primary outcome measure (not measured due to cancellation of RCT):
English skills and reading comprehension of pupils, measured using the GL Progress Test in English (GL PTE) at 2 years

Key secondary outcome(s)

1. Spelling, grammar, and punctuation measured using the GL PTE SPAG subscale at 2 years
2. Reading comprehension measured using the 'reading comprehension' subscales at 2 years
3. Teachers' workload measured using data collected from an online survey of Year 7 English teachers at 6 months, 1 and 2 years

Updated 28/06/2022: Not measured due to cancellation of RCT

Completion date

01/09/2021

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

Non-academically selective, state secondary schools in England

Participant type(s)

Other

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Child

Sex

All

Total final enrolment

0

Key exclusion criteria

Schools:

1. Fewer than 4 h of English teaching timetabled per week in Year 7 or 8
2. Grade 4 according to OFSTED school classification
3. Previously partnered with English Mastery

Pupils:

1. Pupils whose parents have withdrawn them from the trial

Date of first enrolment

01/02/2019

Date of final enrolment

25/06/2019

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre

English Mastery

The Yellow Building

1 Nicholas Road

London

United Kingdom

W11 4AN

Sponsor information

Organisation

NatCen Social Research

ROR

<https://ror.org/057z98j75>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Government

Funder Name

Education Endowment Foundation

Alternative Name(s)

EducEndowFoundn, The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), 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 available upon the submission of a data request. Data will be archived with the Fischer Family Trust (FFT) for EEF. Access to this is provided only on submission of a data request, and any NPD data is accessed via the ONS SRS.

IPD sharing plan summary

Stored in repository

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Funder report results		29/04/2022	28/06/2022	No	No
Study website	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes