

Evaluation of Research Learning Communities - Information Sheet

What Works for Children's Social Care is funding the roll-out and evaluation of Research Learning Communities (RLC) within local authorities and Virtual Schools in England. We are now seeking Local Authorities to participate in this exciting programme.

What is Research Learning Communities

RLC is an intervention that aims to raise teachers' awareness, understanding, and use of educational research in developing their practice, with the ultimate aim of improving pupil outcomes. This is a whole school intervention where designated teachers from each school attend RLC workshops in which they discuss research with academic experts and colleagues from other schools.

The focus will be on Maths & English lessons for Year 5 & 6 pupils.

The intervention

- The intervention is made up of 8 Workshops, delivered to teachers on a monthly basis.
- The introduction session will be 1.5 hours, run face-to-face and attended by School leaders, Subject Leads from schools (English and maths), Virtual Heads associated with Schools and Designated Teachers.
- The workshops (x6) will be 2.5 hours and delivered virtually, attended by Subject Leads and/or Designated Teachers from each school.
- Moving forward workshop

Recruitment

- First, the unit of recruitment would be the virtual school, and we would expect the intervention to be administered in partnership with them.
- Virtual Schools would then select primary schools to be part of the intervention. To be eligible, these primaries would need to have at least one student in year 5 or 6 who had had a social worker in the last six years, and ideally at least one student in those years who is, or has been in care.

The evaluation

In order to determine the impact and test the effectiveness of using Research Learning Communities within primary education and children's social care, WWCSA are funding an independent evaluation. This evaluation will take the form of a randomised controlled trial (RCT). This means that half of all primary schools/ Virtual Schools within the local authority will be randomly selected to receive Research Learning for the duration of the evaluation period. The other half of primary schools/ Virtual



Schools within the local authority will be in the control group, and while they will not have access to Research Learning, they will continue building relationships with and providing support to young people as per their usual practice.

What will be expected of the Local Authority?

- To facilitate the recruitment of virtual schools and primary schools.
- To support the evaluation team, particularly by providing them with contact details if required for any schools/ families participating in this project. A data sharing agreement will be put in place to ensure confidentiality and compliance with GDPR.

Timeline

- The programme is due to launch in September 2021, with the set up phase of the project beginning in July.
- The intervention and evaluation will be funded for the 2021/2022 academic year.
- The evaluation team will produce a final report outlining their findings in the spring of 2023.

If you would like to register your participation in this programme please complete the Expression of Interest form on the [WWCSC website](#) by **Friday 25th June 2021**.