

PARENT INFORMATION SHEET

Independent evaluation of the Lexia® Core5® Reading Programme

Your child's school has agreed to take part in a research study looking to examine the effectiveness of the Lexia® Core5® Reading Programme (hereafter called Lexia) in improving reading outcomes for struggling readers in Year 2.

This document tells you more about our research, so that you can understand why we are conducting it and what it will involve.

What is Lexia?

Lexia is a computer-based Independent Learning System (ILS) for primary school readers provided by LexiaUK. It provides personalised practice and instruction in all key skill areas which make a successful reader. Lexia includes practise and instruction in phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension skills, and spelling and grammar rules. As pupils progress through their personalised pathway, teachers can access progress reports which can inform planning and instruction. Furthermore, if the teacher feels additional support is required, a large bank of printable resources can be accessed, which includes lesson plans, independent worksheets, and class activity exercises.

Who is conducting this research?

The research project is funded by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF). The intervention is led by LexiaUK and Queen's University Belfast (QUB) whilst the evaluation will be conducted by Elena Rosa Speciani and her team from RAND Europe. Elklan will be asked by RAND Europe to administer the one-to-one tests.

What does the research involve?

This study will aim to measure if Lexia helps improve the outcomes of Year 2 struggling readers across participating schools. To do this, we will compare the outcomes of pupils receiving Lexia against those of pupils receiving usual reading instruction. We will also look at different factors that may influence Lexia's effectiveness.

We will conduct the study with two cohorts, split across two academic years (2023/24 and 2024/25). In total, 224 schools across England will participate in the study, 112 of which will participate in 2023/24 and the remaining 112 in 2024/25. An independent team from RAND Europe will evaluate Lexia in the form of a randomised controlled trial (RCT). This means that half of the participating schools will be randomly assigned to administer Lexia whilst the other half will continue with usual reading instruction.

Children in schools assigned to administer Lexia will participate in the programme after selected teachers and teaching assistants (TAs) have been trained to use the software. Therefore, children's participation in the programme will start in September 2024 and end in June 2025.

What will happen if your child takes part in our research?

We plan to collect data from your child's school (name, gender, date of birth, eligibility for free school meals, unique pupil number). We will also ask that your child will complete a standardised child-friendly reading test, the Woodcock Reading Mastery Test (version 3; WRMT-III) twice: first between June and July 2024 and later between May and July 2025. These tests will be conducted one-to-one by test administrators from Elklan. Children will take the WRMT-III twice so that we can measure improvements before and after their participation in Lexia. Data we hold on participating children will be linked to the National Pupil Database (NPD), the government repository of educational data for all children in state-funded education in England. We will use the NPD to look at additional pupil information to probe further into whether Lexia has been effective and if our findings also apply across a range of different pupil characteristics.

In schools assigned to deliver Lexia, the children will participate in the programme from September 2024 to June 2025. Children in comparison schools will continue as usual. During programme delivery, members of the RAND Europe evaluation team may observe teachers and TAs in select schools whilst they implement Lexia. We will conduct these observations so we can monitor the quality of programme delivery, but we will not make any recordings. Your child may be participating in the intervention at the time, but no data will be collected on your child.

Please see the **Privacy Notice** at the end of this document for further detail on how personal data will be collected and used.

What happens to the results of the study?

All data for each child will be kept strictly confidential and only used for research, evaluation, and Lexia software usage purposes. Results from your child will be combined with the results from other children for statistical evaluation and will not be used in any way that would identify your child. At no time will your child's identity or individual data be reported. The team will not use your child's name or the name of the school in any report arising from the research, nor provide information that identifies your child to anyone outside the study team. The results of the research will be published on the EEF website.

Statement of any benefits or risk

Taking part in this research will be of no risk to your child. Since the pilot found the programme to have improved outcomes for struggling readers, children in schools assigned to deliver Lexia are expected to benefit from participating in the programme. The EEF is providing a grant to schools assigned to the comparison group, which schools can use at their discretion, including to purchase teaching programmes. The research will be of benefit to future classes of children.

What should I do next?

It is the school's decision to deliver Lexia, but it is your decision whether we can include your child in this research. Participation is entirely voluntary. Your decision will not adversely affect your child's access to services or programmes at your child's school outside the research. You are free to decline or stop at any time.

If you **DO NOT WISH** your child to take part in this study, please fill in the enclosed form and return it to your child's class teacher as soon as possible. If you are happy for your child to take part, there is no form to sign. If at any point, you decide to withdraw your child's data, you may do so without penalty and without giving a reason. To do this, you may contact the RAND Europe team, whose contact details are indicated on p. 8. These contact details will also be made available online. Upon notifying the RAND Europe team, we will delete your child's data and will not use it for the evaluation.

What if I have any questions or concerns?

If you have a concern about the delivery of Lexia, please contact Joanna O'Keefe at lexia@qub.ac.uk.

If you have any questions about testing and evaluation, please contact the evaluation team lead at RAND Europe, Elena Rosa Speciani, at lexia@randeurope.org.

If you have any questions on the way your child's personal data is processed, please contact RAND Europe's Data Protection Officer by emailing REdpo@randeurope.org.

We will acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how it will be dealt with.

Privacy Notice for Parents (23035)

Independent Evaluation of the Lexia® Core5® Reading Programme

The delivery team (LexiaUK and QUB) and evaluation team (RAND Europe, who will employ and supervise the work of a testing company, Elklan, for the collection of outcome measures) conducting the Lexia study take privacy very seriously. Informed by the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), this privacy notice sets out how we will use and look after the personal information that we collect from the children and schools taking part in the study.

LexiaUK and RAND Europe are joint controllers of contact details collected from schools. Also acting as data controllers, QUB will be collecting these contact details during the study's recruitment phases. LexiaUK and RAND Europe also jointly control software use data and administrative pupil data collected for matching purposes.

RAND Europe is sole controller of:

- (a) more detailed demographic data on pupils, collected from both schools and the National Pupil Database;
- (b) data on the attendance of headteachers, teachers, and teaching assistants in compulsory training sessions conducted by LexiaUK; and
- (c) pupils' baseline and endline test scores on the Woodcock Reading Mastery Test, version 3, which will be administered by Elklan, who have been commissioned by RAND Europe as testing sub-contractors and data processors.

Once the study has concluded, data will be turned over to the EEF, who will then become the data controllers. However, the EEF are not data controllers until all data has been turned over to the EEF data archive.

Further data will come from the National Pupil Database (NPD). The NPD is the government's official repository of data on all children and young people in state-funded schools. The evaluation team will provide the Data Sharing Team at the DfE with the names of the pupils, their dates of birth, and Unique Pupil Numbers (UPNs), allowing a match to NPD and access to educational attainment and other relevant data. After the matching process has taken place, we will then analyse this data using the Secure Research Service (SRS) based at the Office of National Statistics (ONS). The SRS system does not allow users to remove or copy data from its servers.

The types of data collected, as well as the roles each party plays in the data processing conducted for programme delivery and evaluation are described in more detail in the table below.

All parties involved in data collection and analysis have put appropriate security measures in place to keep personal data secure and to prevent any unauthorised access to or use of it. This includes the use of password-protected folders for digital information and locked filing cabinets for written records.

What personal data will be collected, how, and what will it be used for?

Personal data means any information about an individual from which that individual can be identified. Data will be collected by both the delivery team and the evaluation team (with support from the testing company). The table below describes all the ways that personal data will be used by the delivery team and the evaluation team.

Personal Information Data				
Data (what will be collected?)	Source (who will collect?)	Receiver or Permitted recipient	Purpose (what will be used for?)	How do we collect the data?
Contact details (name, email address, telephone number) of headteacher, designated lead Lexia teacher, teaching assistants, and IT technician	QUB (data controllers)	LexiaUK and RAND Europe (data controllers)	LexiaUK: Transmission of documents relevant to the programme; setting up events related to the programme (e.g., training, software licence setup) RAND Europe: arranging school visits and data collection activities (e.g., survey)	Electronic data transfer via secure server
		Elklan (data processors)	Setting up dates for administering WRMT-III	
Basic administrative data of Year 2 pupils participating in the study, to be provided by schools (data already held by schools): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • first name, last name • UPN • date of birth • gender 	RAND Europe	LexiaUK and RAND Europe (data controllers) & Elklan (data processors)	Matching pupil records with software use data	Electronic data transfer via secure server
Additional demographic administrative data of Year 2 pupils participating in the study, to be provided by the schools (data already held by schools): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free School Meal (FSM) eligibility status 	RAND Europe (data controllers)	RAND Europe (data controllers) & Elklan (data processors)	Matching pupil records; independent assessment of impact of intervention on outcomes; withdrawal forms	Electronic data transfer via secure server
		EEF (data controllers) & EEF archive manager (data processor)	Long-term follow-up analyses and archiving of the data. EEF becomes data controller once the data has been transferred to the EEF Data Archive but is not	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) status • English as an additional language (EAL) status 			data controller until this has happened.	
<p>Pupil data from the National Pupil Database:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSM Ever6 status • SEND status • EAL status 	<p>National Pupil Database (data controller)</p>	<p>RAND Europe (data controllers)</p>	<p>Independent assessment (sub-group analyses) of impact of intervention on reading outcomes</p>	<p>Electronic data transfer via secure server</p>
<p>EEF (data controller) & EEF archive manager (data processor)</p>	<p>Long-term follow-up analyses and archiving of the data. EEF becomes data controller once the data has been transferred to the EEF Data Archive but is not data controller until this has happened.</p>			
<p>Pupil outcome data collected for the evaluation (collected by test administrators):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodcock Reading Mastery Test, version 3 (WRMT-III) 	<p>RAND Europe (Data controller) (Data collection sub-contracted to Elklan to test provider as Data Processor)</p>	<p>RAND Europe (data controllers) & Elklan (data processors)</p>	<p>Independent assessment of intervention impact on reading outcomes</p>	<p>Electronic data transfer via secure server</p>
<p>EEF (data controller) & EEF archive manager (data processor)</p>	<p>Long-term follow-up analyses. EEF becomes data controller once the data has been transferred to the EEF Data Archive but is not data controller until this has happened.</p>			
<p>Lexia software use data</p>	<p>LexiaUK (data controllers)</p>	<p>RAND Europe (data controllers)</p>	<p>Analysis of compliance to programme design</p>	<p>Electronic data transfer via secure server</p>
		<p>LexiaUK</p>	<p>Matching pupil data with software use data</p>	<p>Electronic data transfer via secure server</p>

		EEF (data controller) & EEF archive manager (data processor)	Long-term follow-up analyses. EEF becomes data controller once the data has been transferred to the EEF Data Archive but is not data controller until this has happened.	Electronic data transfer via secure server
Training attendance records (names of headteachers, teachers, and teaching assistants)	Schools (data processor)	RAND Europe (data controllers)	Analysis of compliance to prescribed training design and dosage	Electronic data transfer via secure server

Who will hold the data?

During the trial, the data will be managed by RAND Europe, LexiaUK, QUB, and Elklan. RAND Europe will securely transfer data to the EEF's archive at the end of the project under the EEF guidelines. At the end of the project, data will be submitted to the Office for National Statistics Secure Research Service (ONS SRS) for archiving in the EEF data archive (managed by FFT Education) and will include data only individually identifiable to the Department for Education.

Both the evaluation and delivery teams will seek ethical approval for the study. The study will not commence until ethical approval is received.

How will the data be shared?

During the trial, data will be shared securely using a specialised software (Egress). Majority of the data that will be used for the purposes of the intervention and the evaluation will be stored and processed within Egress, with licence applications processed by LexiaUK under the terms of their [Privacy Policy](#).

Pupil names and date of birth will be shared with Elklan to enable them to collect outcome data. For research purposes, following the completion of the trial, the data will be shared with the EEF archive who will act as the data controller after that point. You can read the EEF's Data Protection Statement in the EEF's website.¹

How will the data be kept secure?

The delivery and the evaluation teams have put appropriate security measures in place to collect and to keep personal data secure and to prevent any unauthorised access to or use of it. All data will be collected and stored in accordance with the Data Protection Act (2018) and GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) requirements. Whilst, in usual practice, some data from the Lexia software is stored in servers located in the United States, no data used for the evaluation will be saved on servers outside the EEA or the United Kingdom, pursuant to EEA-approved terms. Evaluation data will be stored on secure servers. Data transferred between the delivery and evaluation teams will be encrypted or use secure file transfer protocols, primarily through Egress. Please see LexiaUK's Privacy Policy for how software data is collected and processed.

What is the lawful basis we rely on in order to use and collect personal data and special category data?

¹ For more information about the EEF archive and Data Protection Statement, please see: https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/public/files/Evaluation/Data_protection/Data_protection_statement_EEF_evaluations.pdf

The data collected for the Lexia project is used for the purposes of research. The lawful basis for LexiaUK and RAND Europe's use of that data under the GDPR is 'legitimate interest' as permitted under GDPR Article 6(1)(f) as the research will produce beneficial information for schools that will benefit children.² The Delivery and Evaluation teams will use data collected through the NPD linkage for the purposes of research. The Evaluation team will use the basic identifiers (name and date of birth) to associate information with individuals to create datasets and that use will not affect the rights and freedoms of the children because this information will not be publicly connected to any other information. The test data will not be publicly available in association with the basic identifiers and therefore no risk of detriment exists to the children. Special category data is processed for the purpose of scientific research and archiving as permitted under GDPR Article 9(2) (j).

How will existing data be archived?

The Evaluation team will archive data pertaining to the Lexia trial as per the Table above into the EEF's archive in the Office for National Statistics Secure Research Service. All this data may potentially be linked to the NPD or to other data sources in the future for the purposes of research. When archived, this data has the potential to be used in further educational studies. No personal identifiers are submitted to the archive except for the Pupil Matching Reference, which is needed to link trial pupils with administrative data. The EEF archive has recently been transferred to the Office of National Statistics Secure Research Service, which significantly increases the security of the data. It can only be accessed by accredited researchers within the secure service. This fully complies with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

How long will we keep data?

Research data will be kept securely by the delivery team (LexiaUK and QUB), the evaluation team (RAND Europe), and the testing sub-contractor (Elklan) for the duration of the study. This data, including test outcome data collected by Elklan, will be deleted one year after the report has been published. The delivery team will keep anonymised data (i.e., with no identification of pupils or schools and no date of birth, just age in months) that cannot be linked to any individual for three years after the publication of research papers, which is the standard period required for academic publications. Additionally, pupil data and data on the delivery of the intervention will be deposited into the EEF's data archive in the Office for National Statistics Secure Research Service at the end of all of the research.

What choices do parents have in our use of their child's data?

If parents do NOT want their child's data to be used, we will provide a withdrawal form for parents to return to their child's class teacher. During or after the intervention, participants may contact RAND Europe and/or Queen's University Belfast to request deletion of their personal data.

Should parents wish for their child's data to be withdrawn over the course of the evaluation, they may contact the RAND Europe evaluation team at lexia@randeurope.org, who will then instruct LexiaUK to proceed with data removal.

What are your rights?

The Evaluation and Delivery teams will operate in accordance with EU law including GDPR. You are provided with certain rights that you may have the right to exercise through us. In summary those rights are:

- To access, correct or erase your personal data
- To object to the processing of your personal data

² For more information about legitimate interest, please see: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/legitimate-interests/what-is-the-legitimate-interests-basis/>

Were you to request information from us, we will need to confirm your identity to ensure the security of your data. We will endeavour to respond within 30 days, but our response time may vary depending on the complexity of your request.

If you wish to exercise any of these rights please contact the RAND Europe Data Protection Officer by emailing REdpo@randeurope.org or in writing to Data Protection Officer, RAND Europe, Eastbrook House, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8BF, UK. Once the project (Independent Evaluation of the Lexia® Core5® Reading Programme, 23035) is completed and data has been shared with the EEF archive, participants should contact the EEF at info@eefoundation.org.uk.

You also have the right to contact the Information Commissioner's Office in the UK if you have any concerns about the processing of your data by RAND Europe. You can visit ico.org.uk or email casework@ico.org.uk. Alternatively, you can write or telephone to Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.

Who can I contact about this project?

For questions about Lexia delivery, please contact Joanna O'Keefe of the delivery team at lexia@qub.ac.uk.

For questions about testing and evaluation, please contact Elena Rosa Speciani or Miguel Subosa of the evaluation team at lexia@randeurope.org.

WITHDRAWAL FORM

Independent Evaluation of the Lexia® Core5® Reading Programme

Please complete only if you do **NOT** want your child's data to be used in this research.

If you are happy for your child's data to contribute to this research and to be archived by the Education Endowment Foundation, then you do not have to do anything.

If you **do NOT** want your child's data to be used for this study or their data to be archived, please fill out the form below and return to your child's school.

I, the undersigned, hereby do **NOT** give permission for my child's data to be used for the purposes of the Lexia® Core5® Reading Programme trial.

I, the undersigned, hereby do **NOT** give permission for my child's data to be archived by the Education Endowment Foundation.

Child's full name: _____

School name: _____

Parent/carer's name: _____

Parent/carer's signature: _____

Date: _____