

RAMSBURY ENGLISH HUB

KEY STAGE 3 READING: SUPPORT OFFER 2026- 27



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INTRODUCTION

Reading is the gateway to learning. It is the key to pupils' future academic achievement and well-being. To fulfil the demands of the secondary school curriculum, pupils need to be able to read age-appropriate texts fluently. Pupils who cannot read well are not able to access the curriculum and are disadvantaged for life.

English hubs were established in 2018 to provide a range of support and continuing professional development to schools to improve the teaching of reading. Our aim is to ensure all students have the vital skills of literacy, no matter who they are or where they come from.

We understand that every secondary school is at a different stage in developing their reading strategy, and our KS3 programme is designed to support schools at whatever point they are at in their journey.

To date, Ramsbury English Hub has worked with over 700 schools in our region to raise literacy standards and improve the educational outcomes for the most disadvantaged pupils.

We provide funding, guidance and professional development for colleagues across the South-West in the following regions:

- Swindon
- Wiltshire
- Cotswolds
- Dorset

IMPACT TESTIMONIAL

"The English Hub Secondary Review has really catalysed the School's thinking around literacy and there has been real momentum as a result of their support and training materials. Thank you!"

John O'Gaunt School AY25-26

WHAT WE OFFER

Our support is centered on 3 priority areas:



Improving outcomes

To support secondary schools to improve outcomes for KS3 pupils with reading needs.



Whole school approach

To support secondary schools to take a whole school approach to improving reading and attainment.



Knowledge sharing

Enhancing transition from primary to secondary.

OUR TEAM

Our Secondary Literacy Specialists are:

Amy Evers



Amy has over 15 years' experience in education, having held leadership roles such as Director of Learning for English and Assistant Headteacher. As a Specialist Leader of Education, she's led cross-phase collaborations and large-scale CPLD focused on literacy. She's a trained coach and NPQ facilitator (including NPQSENCO and NPQSL), supporting school leaders with teaching, curriculum, and assessment development. Amy holds the NPQH, examines English, and is School Improvement Lead for a Wiltshire-based trust, overseeing curriculum, literacy, and teaching across secondary schools.

Anna Szpakowska



Anna has worked in education for 18 years, 12 of which have been spent in leadership roles, including Joint Head of Communications Faculty, Lead Teacher for Professional Learning and Lead Practitioner for Reading. Anna has an MA in children's literature. Most recently, Anna has founded Get Them Reading, an organisation that supports secondary schools to engage teenagers with volitional reading.

Zahara Chowdhury



Zahara has over 10 years experience in education, senior leadership, curriculum design, delivery of whole school diversity and inclusion strategy and implementation, including professional development, stakeholder management, teacher training, student wellbeing and parental engagement. Zahara is a previous Head of English, Associate Senior Leader and Education and Wellbeing Consultant.

WHAT WE OFFER

We are delighted to share our AY26-27 funded support offer with you in this brochure. Our offer comprises of;

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES

These are half-day FREE events held across our region and are the gateway to resource funding and fully funded specialist teacher support. Guest speakers, who are experts in their field, deliver a keynote and leaders can engage with best practice in action.

KS3 READING REVIEWS

A fully-funded leadership development day in secondary schools focusing on improving reading and attainment. Working alongside Raising Standards and Teaching & Learning teams, we identify effective reading strategies and areas for further development.

MEDIUM LEVEL SUPPORT

Funded working groups and online training for Secondary Reading/ Literacy Leads to develop reading proficiency in all pupils.

FUNDING

A bespoke, partnership programme. Up to six funded days with a Secondary Literacy Specialist to strategically develop KS3 reading, with a particular focus on accelerating reading progress for struggling readers.

Schools receiving intensive support can apply for resource funding of up to £6000 to support effective implementation of KS3 diagnostic assessment, reading intervention training and resourcing.

A background image showing three young women. The woman on the left has long blonde hair and is smiling. The woman in the middle has dark hair and is also smiling. The woman on the right has long brown hair, wears glasses, and has a more serious expression. They appear to be looking at something off-camera, possibly a screen.

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE EVENTS

Many of our students find reading to be an overwhelming challenge. For some pupils these reading needs can be persistent and/or emerge later, when the curriculum becomes more challenging. Teachers in the secondary classroom need the knowledge and resources to support students in an age-appropriate way. How do we address this effectively within the secondary context?

What to expect:

- Hear from experts in the field of teenage reading and secondary literacy
- Find out more about current and future policy, delivery and strategy for teenage reading
- Share your views, ideas, best practice and the challenges that secondaries face

Guest speakers:

- To be confirmed

Intended audience:

Headteachers, Deputy Heads, Senior Leadership Team, KS3 Leads

- Two funded places available per secondary school.
- One must be the staff member in the school with strategic responsibility for reading across the whole school (e.g. Raising Standards Lead, Teaching and Learning Lead)

**EVENTS COMING IN SWINDON, WILTSHIRE & BOURNEMOUTH
BOOKING SOON**

INTENSIVE SUPPORT



PRIORITISATION CRITERIA

Priority for funded support will be given to state funded secondary schools which meet two or more of the below criteria:

- Secondary schools with a higher than average number of Year 7 pupils who did not meet the expected standard in the KS2 reading assessment at primary school.
- Secondary schools where disadvantaged pupils' KS4 attainment is below the national average for disadvantaged pupils.
- Secondary schools with a higher than average proportion of pupils eligible for pupil premium.
- Secondary schools with a high proportion of priority groups such as EAL, FSM, travellers.
- Secondary schools with a higher than average number of pupils with SEND (based on either the number of pupils on SEN support or the number with an EHCP)
- Secondary schools where reading has been identified as an area for development by Ofsted.
- Secondary schools in which the staff leading in reading are new to their positions.

Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence (RISE)

English Hubs will be a key delivery vehicle for the universal service. The universal service will work with all schools to signpost them to best practice (including DfE hubs), to encourage peer to peer support and bring schools together to share their knowledge and innovation.

KS3 READING REVIEWS

Our Literacy Specialist-led reviews help leaders to identify current good practice, highlight areas for development and plan clear, achievable next steps for KS3 pupils with reading needs.

OUTLINE OF THE AUDIT PROCESS:

- Preliminary conversation with senior leaders to discuss school priorities for KS3 reading.
- Learning walk with KS3 Lead and T&L Lead/ Raising Standards Lead to review reading offer in KS3 classrooms and to reading intervention groups.
- Implementation review of KS3 reading and disciplinary literacy, using latest guidance
- Actionable next steps to improve KS3 pupils' reading outcomes
- KS3 reading action plan is co-constructed

Follow-up development visits will be funded by our pilot for some schools. These visits will provide further support and training to implement actions identified in the initial review.

ELIGIBILITY

To find out if you are eligible for a fully funded audit, please complete [this short enquiry form](#).

KS3 PARTNER SCHOOL PROGRAMME

Eligible schools can apply to work intensively with us in a bespoke school-to-school support model. Our team of highly-trained, Secondary Literacy Specialists work with school leaders to embed sustainable improvements to KS3 reading.

Our Partner Schools commit at leadership and governing body level to improve KS3 pupil outcomes and sign a partnership agreement.

KS3 READING DEVELOPMENT OFFER

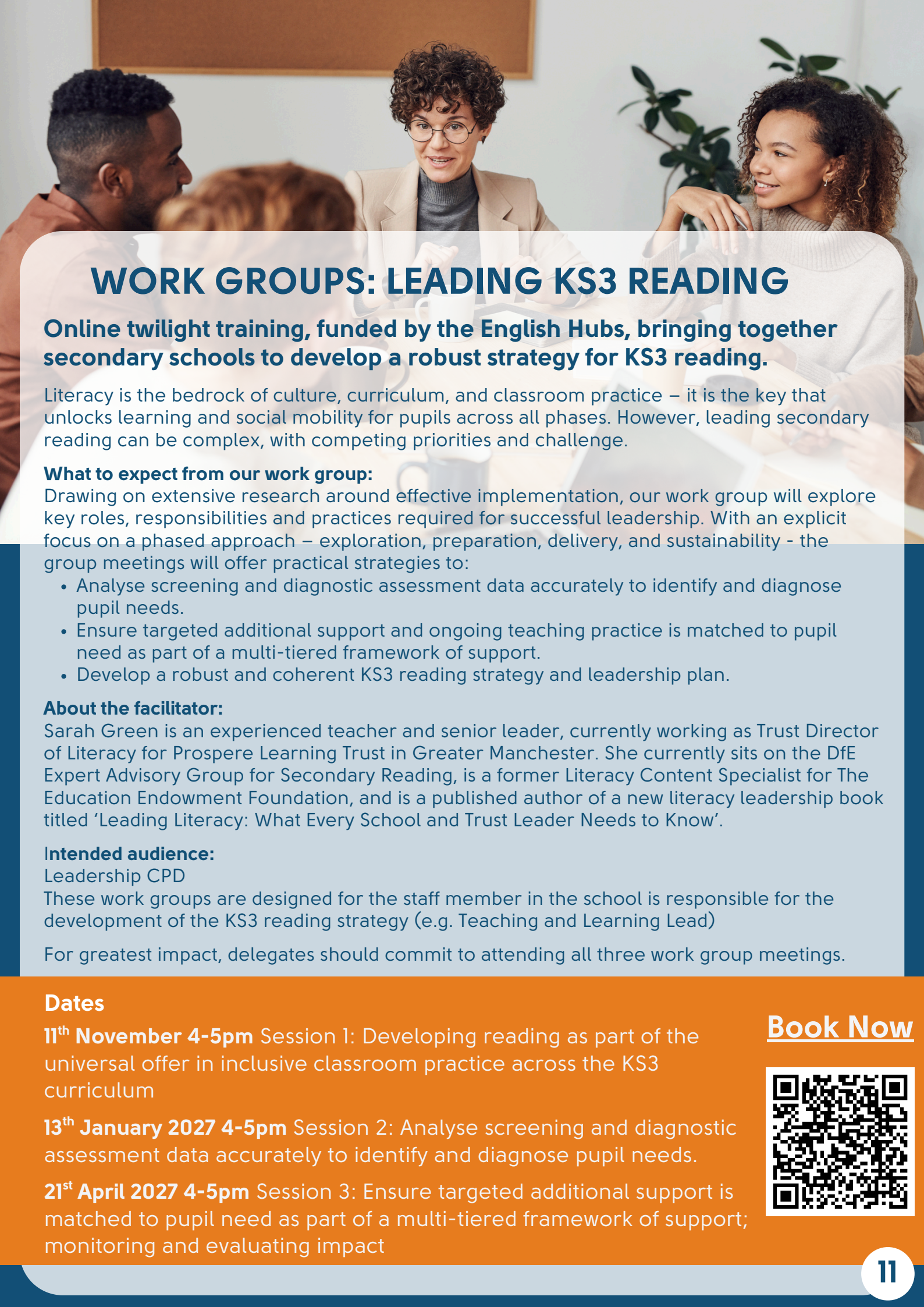
- Between three and six fully-funded support days this academic year, working with our Literacy Specialist team in your school.
- Network training, fully-funded by the hub.
- Up to £6000 resource funding to support the financing of diagnostic reading assessments, reading catch-up programme training and intervention resources.

WHAT DOES A TYPICAL SUPPORT DAY LOOK LIKE?

- Learning walks to identify strengths and areas for development .
- Pupil progress data analysis.
- Professional development for staff to give them the skills and confidence to implement actions in between visits.
- Actionable next steps to improve outcomes for KS3 pupils with reading needs.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



A photograph of three people in a meeting. A woman with curly hair and glasses, wearing a beige blazer over a grey turtleneck, is smiling and looking towards the right. A man with short dark hair is on the left, looking towards the woman. A young woman with curly hair is on the right, looking towards the woman in the center. They are all sitting around a table with papers and a laptop.

WORK GROUPS: LEADING KS3 READING

Online twilight training, funded by the English Hubs, bringing together secondary schools to develop a robust strategy for KS3 reading.

Literacy is the bedrock of culture, curriculum, and classroom practice – it is the key that unlocks learning and social mobility for pupils across all phases. However, leading secondary reading can be complex, with competing priorities and challenge.

What to expect from our work group:

Drawing on extensive research around effective implementation, our work group will explore key roles, responsibilities and practices required for successful leadership. With an explicit focus on a phased approach – exploration, preparation, delivery, and sustainability - the group meetings will offer practical strategies to:

- Analyse screening and diagnostic assessment data accurately to identify and diagnose pupil needs.
- Ensure targeted additional support and ongoing teaching practice is matched to pupil need as part of a multi-tiered framework of support.
- Develop a robust and coherent KS3 reading strategy and leadership plan.

About the facilitator:

Sarah Green is an experienced teacher and senior leader, currently working as Trust Director of Literacy for Prospere Learning Trust in Greater Manchester. She currently sits on the DfE Expert Advisory Group for Secondary Reading, is a former Literacy Content Specialist for The Education Endowment Foundation, and is a published author of a new literacy leadership book titled 'Leading Literacy: What Every School and Trust Leader Needs to Know'.

Intended audience:

Leadership CPD

These work groups are designed for the staff member in the school is responsible for the development of the KS3 reading strategy (e.g. Teaching and Learning Lead)

For greatest impact, delegates should commit to attending all three work group meetings.

Dates

11th November 4-5pm Session 1: Developing reading as part of the universal offer in inclusive classroom practice across the KS3 curriculum

13th January 2027 4-5pm Session 2: Analyse screening and diagnostic assessment data accurately to identify and diagnose pupil needs.

21st April 2027 4-5pm Session 3: Ensure targeted additional support is matched to pupil need as part of a multi-tiered framework of support; monitoring and evaluating impact

Book Now



UNLOCKING READING

A new DFE-funded CPD programme to support struggling readers in secondary schools.

What is Unlocking Reading?

The Unlocking Reading programme is designed to build confidence, capability and knowledge for schools to support secondary-aged pupils with reading needs. It has been developed by FFT and Royal Holloway, University of London in partnership with a network of schools and other academics.

With DfE funding, all secondary state schools in England will be able to attend in-person training in the Summer Term 2026 and access a range of supporting online training modules. The CPD programme is tailored for teachers, teaching assistants and school leaders and will support struggling readers, embedding a whole-school approach to improving reading and attainment.

What is included?

Free in-person training session for every secondary school

Join FFT's Literacy Experts at one of our nationwide roadshow events designed to support secondary schools in improving reading outcomes.

- Held at venues across the UK
- Half-day sessions (approx 3 hours)
- Two delegates per school (SLT and a whole-school reading lead)
- Practical, expert-led training at no cost

Flexible online CPD portal

Alongside the in-person training, all staff can access further content through live webinars and on-demand training through the Unlocking Reading portal.

- 10 modules covering a range of topics
- Practical, evidence-based strategies tested in real school settings
- On-demand video content
- Suitable for teachers, TAs, and leaders
- Developed by FFT literacy experts and researchers at Royal Holloway, University of London
- Core content for all staff, with extra modules available for whole-school reading lead

GET IN TOUCH

If you would like to discuss your school context in more detail, please complete [this short enquiry form](#) to request an appointment.

We look forward to working with you!

The Ramsbury English Hub Team



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<https://www.linkedin.com/company/ramsbury-english-hub/>



ramsburyschool.org/English-Hub/

Further information on the national English Hubs programme:
[Home - English Hub \(englishhubs.net\)](https://englishhubs.net)