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Learners First
Schools Partnership

Connecting People, Promoting Excellence

English Hubs

Learners First English Hub

@Whiston Worrygoose

November 2019

English Hub Update

Whiston Worrygoose Primary School is one of only 34 English Hubs located throughout the country. We are pleased to be able to announce that we are also now able to provide validated training for Letters and Sounds.

As a Hub Partnership, working with Learners First, we are excited by the opportunities this creates for local schools and keen to share more information about the support and resources available and how schools can access and contribute to the work of the English Hub.

CONTACT THE LEARNERS FIRST ENGLISH HUB@WHISTON WORRYGOOSE



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The English Hub Strategic Lead is Liz Kenny ekenny@learnersfirst.org. Please contact Liz if you would like more information or advice regarding any aspect of the Hub.

LEARNERS FIRST ENGLISH HUB@WHISTON WORRYGOOSE

As an established Teaching School Partnership and now as an accredited English Hub, our work remains driven by the desire and unwavering determination to improve educational outcomes and transform life chances for all children and young people. As a vehicle through which we can further 'connect people and promote excellence', the Learners First English Hub will support school improvement through engagement and collaboration, particularly within areas serving the most disadvantaged.



Our commitment is to provide the highest quality of expertise and support to schools, without obligation, fear or favour. Through the English Hub, we will use the expertise of high performing lead schools and literacy specialists with proven track records of delivering effective and sustainable early literacy teaching to support this endeavour. Ambition, vision and strategic investment underpin relationships built on trust and shape a motivation to provide constructive, distinctive and comprehensive support to improve all schools.



All support offered by the English Hubs across the country will promote the Department's three priority areas:

1. **Early language development:** providing evidence-based approaches to early language development and closing the word gap in school-based early years settings.
2. **Age-appropriate phonics provision:** encouraging best practice in systematic synthetic phonics teaching from school-based early years provision to the end of Key Stage 1.
3. **Promoting a love of reading:** encouraging reading for enjoyment including by supporting whole school reading approaches and encouraging reading at home.

CAN ALL SCHOOLS ACCESS THE ENGLISH HUB?

YES!

Any school can attend a showcase but priority for further support will be given to schools who meet two of the criteria for a target school:

- Lower than average percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in the Phonics Screening Check (2019 PSC expected standard is 82%)
- A higher than average proportion of pupils reading below age-related expectations
- A higher than average proportion of children eligible for pupil premium (2018/19 the pupil premium national average is 22.9%)
- Ofsted judgement of Requires Improvement or Inadequate
- A high proportion of groups considered hard to reach, such as EAL, FSM, travellers, etc.
- Schools referred by local partners (e.g. NLEs, RSCs, LAs, Opportunity Area teams).

NEXT STEPS....

- **Contact us** if you would like to discuss in more detail whether engaging with the English Hub would benefit your school and/or you think that you may be an eligible school.
- **Log on to** the Learners First website and register to attend a Showcase Event. The Showcase will provide more information about our work and approach to phonics and early reading and should provide schools with opportunity to discuss school priorities and begin to establish formal/informal networks with like-minded colleagues.
- **Complete** an initial action plan setting out a plan for improvement in response to the event.
- **Submit** a request for further engagement and a self-referral data collection form. These will help us to prioritise schools using a set of criteria provided by the DfE. There will be a range of opportunities and support available for all schools.

When and Where are our Showcase Events?

Thursday 16 th January 2020	Whiston Worrygoose Primary School, Rotherham	8.30am-2.30pm
Monday 3 rd February 2020	Whiston Worrygoose Primary School, Rotherham	8.30am-2.30pm
Wednesday 4 th March 2020	Whiston Worrygoose Primary School, Rotherham	8.30am-2.30pm
Tuesday 31 st March 2020	Whiston Worrygoose Primary School, Rotherham	8.30am-2.30pm

OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN 2019-20

Showcase

- **Who** - All eligible schools
- **What** - Event showcasing elements of best practice in teaching phonics, early language and reading with representatives from the lead school and literacy specialists available to offer advice and support to schools.
- **Funding** - No charge to attend. Cover costs provided for eligible schools dependent upon the attendance of the Headteacher.

Action Planning

- **Who** - All eligible schools
- **What** - Opportunity to complete and an action plan during attendance at a showcase event. Initial improvement action plans will identify potential engagement opportunities and associated support and resources available from the English Hub.
- **Funding**- As above

Audit

- **Who** - All eligible schools
- **What** - Action plan reviews undertaken by the English Hub will determine further support requirements. In some cases this will include a school-based audit of early language and reading provision (using an audit framework provided by the DfE) leading to further refinement of action plans and associated support and resources (1 day)
- **Funding**- Funded support available.

Support Package

- **Who** - All eligible schools
- **What** - Completion of an audit will enable the hub to decide whether a school is ready to become a partner school and move on to receiving 6 days of in-school support. Medium level support packages will also be available and will be aimed at one of the three English Hub priorities.
- **Funding**- Funding available dependent upon the level of support

Partnership Opportunities

- **Who** - All schools
- **What** - The work of the English Hub and support available through them is shared widely at both local and national level through various forums. Opportunities for working collaboratively with key stakeholders and building capacity are identified and built upon.
- **Funding**- Future funding decisions to be agreed at national level

School Eligibility & Prioritisation

Nationally, English Hubs have been asked to prioritise support to schools based on the following criterion:

- (1) Schools referred to the hub by National Leaders of Education as part of the 2018/19 'at risk' school improvement offer will have priority for support: all schools referred as part of this programme should be offered support to develop an action plan as a minimum. However, those schools will not automatically have priority for other elements of the support offer, which should be offered in accordance with the prioritisation criteria below.
- (2) Schools with a lower percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in the phonics screening check (PSC) over the previous three years should be prioritised over hubs with a higher proportion of pupils meeting the expected standard.
- (3) Alongside PSC scores a school's KS1 reading scores should be taken into account. However, KS1 results alone should not be enough to be prioritised for the programme; the use of KS1 data should only be used to add more context that might not be explicit from PSC results alone.
- (4) Schools with a greater proportion of children eligible for the pupil premium should be prioritised over schools with a lower proportion. Where schools have a similar proportion of pupils meeting the expected standard in the PSC, this criterion should take precedence: the school with the highest percentage of pupils eligible for pupil premium should be offered support.
- (5) If a school is within an Opportunity Area, this should be taken into account. For example, all else equal, schools in Opportunity Areas should be prioritised over schools which are not.
- (6) English Hubs will need to assess the school's capacity for improvement, based on an assessment of any other relevant support the school is receiving and information the school provides about what it hopes to achieve.

The DfE guidance states that whilst decisions must be made with regard to the above, the criterion outlined does not constitute a prioritisation formula; English Hubs will need to make individual judgments based on a balanced view of the information available.

And finally....

A **big** thank you from all of us here at Whiston Worrygoose English Hub to all of the schools who have chosen to engage with us so far and have been so interested and enthusiastic. It is lovely for us to spend time in your schools.