The School & Trust Leadership Awards 2026 WINNER Education Company of the Year

teach PRIMARY AWARDS 2021

era 2020 WINNER

era 2025 WINNER

Lit Co

IMPACT REPORT 2026







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Introduction

A word from our directors

It's hard to believe that we are heading into our 14th year, and as we do so, we have much to celebrate from 2025-2026. We continue to see the impact of our work through regular school surveys, consultancy in schools where we can see the impact first hand, OFSTED reports and evaluations completed from CPD and in-school support.

Our reach continues to expand, both in the UK and internationally, reaching 18 countries with our vision remaining at the heart of all we do: to **inspire**, **support** and **develop** both practitioners and the pupils that they teach. We have partnered with many more multi-academy trusts, clusters and individual schools this year to provide consultancy support. Alongside this, we have continued to work closely with a number of local authorities leading on statutory KS2 assessment and moderation, completing year 2 of a metacognition project and adapting practice to suit the Welsh curriculum with a project involving 67 schools.

Our cloud-based platform has been extremely well received by our schools and now hosts our full suite of Pathways programmes: Write, Read, Poetry, Spell and Progress along with ongoing support for subject leaders. Our partnership with the **EEF** in a funded research trial for Pathways to Write and Pathways to Progress culminates in a report to be published in spring 2027. Early signs are extremely positive with the trial having progressed very well throughout the year and we eagerly anticipate the full report.



Looking ahead to next year, our work continues: driven by research and with a clear focus on delivering real impact where it matters most. This year has seen the release of our new podcast series which has provided a platform for sharing research, knowledge and practical insights and we look forward to building on this with season two next year.

Catherine Richardson

2025-2026 has seen further awards achieved by the company, which we have been very proud of: Nedex-Education Company of the Year and shortlisted for two BESA awards: Primary Curriculum Resource and Team of the Year. These reflect the dedication and expertise of our team and we look forward to achieving more as we move forward. We await the curriculum changes due to be published this year and look forward to further supporting schools and their practitioners and pupils.



We are extremely grateful to our loyal customers and schools who continue to support us and put their faith in the work that we do; we hope you enjoy sharing our 2025-2026 successes in this newly published impact report.

Linda Neill

What we aim for

Our priority is to make a difference for the teachers and pupils we work with; to share our passion for literacy and inspire individuals.



Provide friendly and supportive consultancy



Share knowledge as experts in the field of English



Deliver professional yet approachable training



Work as a passionate and ambitious team



Be at the forefront of innovative product development



Inspire teachers and pupils through engaging texts



Provide excellent customer service

Timeline

September 2013 - The Literacy Company began with Cath and Linda supporting schools

2013-2014 - A longstanding relationship with Cheshire LA and moderation team began

2014-2015 - three consultants joined the team of two

June 2017 - 1000 Facebook followers reached

Pathways to Write

July 2018 - Pathways to Write launched to a room of 80 people

2017-2018 - Research and development of mastery approach with trials in two clusters

March 2019 - Began working with Childer Thornton English Hub

September 2022 - Welcomed first Flagship schools

Spring 2020 - Won first ERA education award

era 2020 WINNER

October 2023 - Began large DfE project with Halton LA

9 consultants supporting a growing number of schools

February 2025 - the team has grown to 18 members

★ March 2025 - 1000 ★ Pathways Schools

June 2026 - Updated and amended intervention programme, Pathways to Progress, launched on the platform

September 2026 - Pathways to Write amended and updated

September 2025 - Launched the Pathways Platform for online access to all resources

July 2026 - EEF trial with Pathways to Write and Progress completed

The Pathways Programmes

Pathways to Write
An award-winning writing programme with a proven methodology built around units of work which develop writing composition, grammar skills and vocabulary through the mastery approach.

Pathways to Progress
A writing intervention programme, closely aligned with Pathways to Write. This flexible programme is predominately aimed at pupils who are working just below age-related expectations but can also be used as a grammar starter to close gaps in pupils' learning before moving on.

Pathways to Read
Designed to equip pupils from Year 1 onwards with key reading comprehension skills to move them through the reading process towards becoming competent and fluent readers.

Pathways to Spell
A progressive spelling programme for schools which covers the whole national curriculum for Y1-Y6.

Pathways to Poetry
Enhances work on vocabulary, spoken language, reading and writing; it gives pupils the opportunity to play with language orally and in writing.

Education Endowment Foundation

EEF Project
2025-26 saw the implementation of our pilot project with the EEF who evaluated the impact of Pathways to Write and Progress across 20 schools. Findings are due in summer 2027 to see how the delivery improved pupils' writing attainment, enjoyment and stamina through use of our structured approach to teaching grammar skills.

Pedagogy

High-quality texts

All of our programmes follow a text-based approach. Books are chosen primarily on their literary merit and have strong, age-appropriate grammar examples, engaging images and the right amount of new vocabulary. In Pathways to Write, the texts chosen have scope for a range of writing opportunities and support the teaching of grammar objectives . Pathways to Progress uses the same text to deepen pupils' familiarity and understanding.

Mastery approach

Pathways programmes follow a Mastery-Learning model. Specific skills are taught and repeated across a unit of work. Pupils have multiple opportunities to use and apply these skills until they can be mastered fully. This follows the processes around research in mathematics: "the idea/concept that all children need a deep understanding of what they are learning in order that they can recall it fluently, use it flexibly and apply it readily." (NCETM).

Progression in skills

Each unit builds progressively and contributes to the programme as a whole: learning is broken down into "discrete units presented in logical order with the assumption that all pupils will achieve a level of mastery if they are appropriately supported." (DfE, 2015). This ensures the full range of year group skills are acquired to meet age-related expectations.

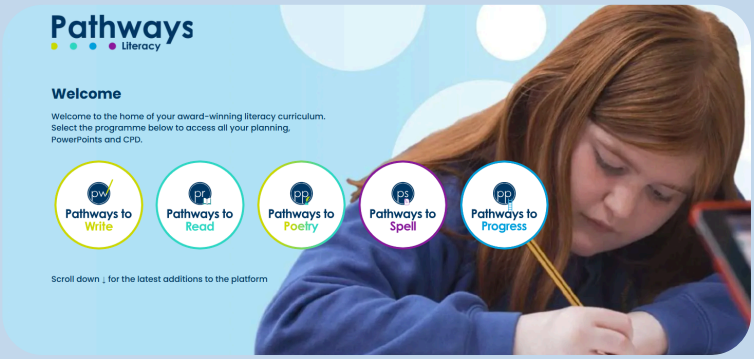
Adaptations built in

Skills and outcomes are pitched at pupils working at Expected Standard. In Pathways to Write, suggested adaptations for pupils working below and just below are threaded throughout each unit. Greater depth pupils are also considered, with appropriately challenging writing outcomes. Supporting documentation provides further guidance on adaptation of the programmes so planning is personalised for all pupils in a class.

What's new in 2026?

Pathways to Progress

In May 2026, we relaunched Pathways to Progress to work more smoothly with Pathways to Write. The intervention programme can be used with a whole class to support with gaps in writing skills or to support groups of pupils in reaching the expected standard.



Pathways to Write

Throughout the summer term, we reached out to Pathways to Write schools for feedback on the units. After research and testing, we have made a series of updates and amends in line with the latest guidance on teaching writing. The new units have been added to the platform for September 2026.

Adapted outcomes and mastery keys

Route map: supporting with adaptations to the unit

To support pupils who are not working within the expected standard for their year group, it would be appropriate to adapt the writing outcomes and *Mastery Keys*.
The table below suggests an adapted final outcome for pupils who require further support and challenge. Underneath are the national curriculum objectives from previous year groups which provide the steps prior to each *Mastery key*. Teachers should also consider adapting the *Feature keys* listed on page 2 using the '*Progression in Feature keys*' document.
Pupils who are working at the greater depth standard should apply the *Mastery keys* with control and effect.
Throughout the unit are suggestions for how some writing tasks can be adapted.
Teachers should always consider whether these tasks are appropriate or required.

Writing outcome

Beginning	Developing	Mastery	Greater depth
To write a series of sequenced, simple sentences to narrate what he has been doing	To write a simple letter from the boy to his Grandfather telling him about what he has been doing and his memories of the seal	To write a letter from the boy to his grandfather telling him about the events he has missed	To write a letter from Grandfather in response to his grandson's letter

Adapted *Mastery keys*

Beginning	Developing	Mastery	Greater depth
Write short narratives ensuring that many sentences are sequenced accurately	Write a sequence of connected events	⊢ **Group related ideas into paragraphs**	Use paragraphs with greater control in narrative
Combine words to make simple sentences	⊢ **Use prepositions to express time, place and cause**	⊢ **Use prepositions to express time, place and cause**	Write expanded noun phrases with greater control with adjectives to describe and **prepositions used to specify**
⊢ **Build a varied and rich vocabulary**			
Gateway key: Use punctuation at Y2 standard correctly (full stops, capital letters)	***Gateway key:*** Use punctuation at Y2 standard correctly (full stops, capital letters)		

"We absolutely love the new adaptation suggestions in your updated Pathways to Write units for autumn 1. This is just so useful. The 'sentence work' sections are also amazing."

Explicit sentence practice

✪ Sentence work

Teacher to model adding the descriptions from the senses grid into sentences.
Model how to add a noun and a verb to create a main clause.
e.g. *Grandad and Ben watched the pretty yellow flowers in the grass.*
Talk through some sentences joined with *and* to extend their ideas.

Pupils practise with a partner, creating sentences together. Give prompts e.g.
*They could see*_____ *and they looked over at*_____.

Links to Global Goals

One Big Question	
Global Goals, created by United Nations member states, form part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They aim to tackle global challenges including poverty, inequality, climate change and justice. Below is a question linked to this *Pathways to Write* text to discuss with pupils as part of an oracy curriculum.	
3 Good health and well-being	**Global goal** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
	How can we make sure everyone, including people with disabilities, can enjoy sport and stay healthy?

Adapted resources

Resources:

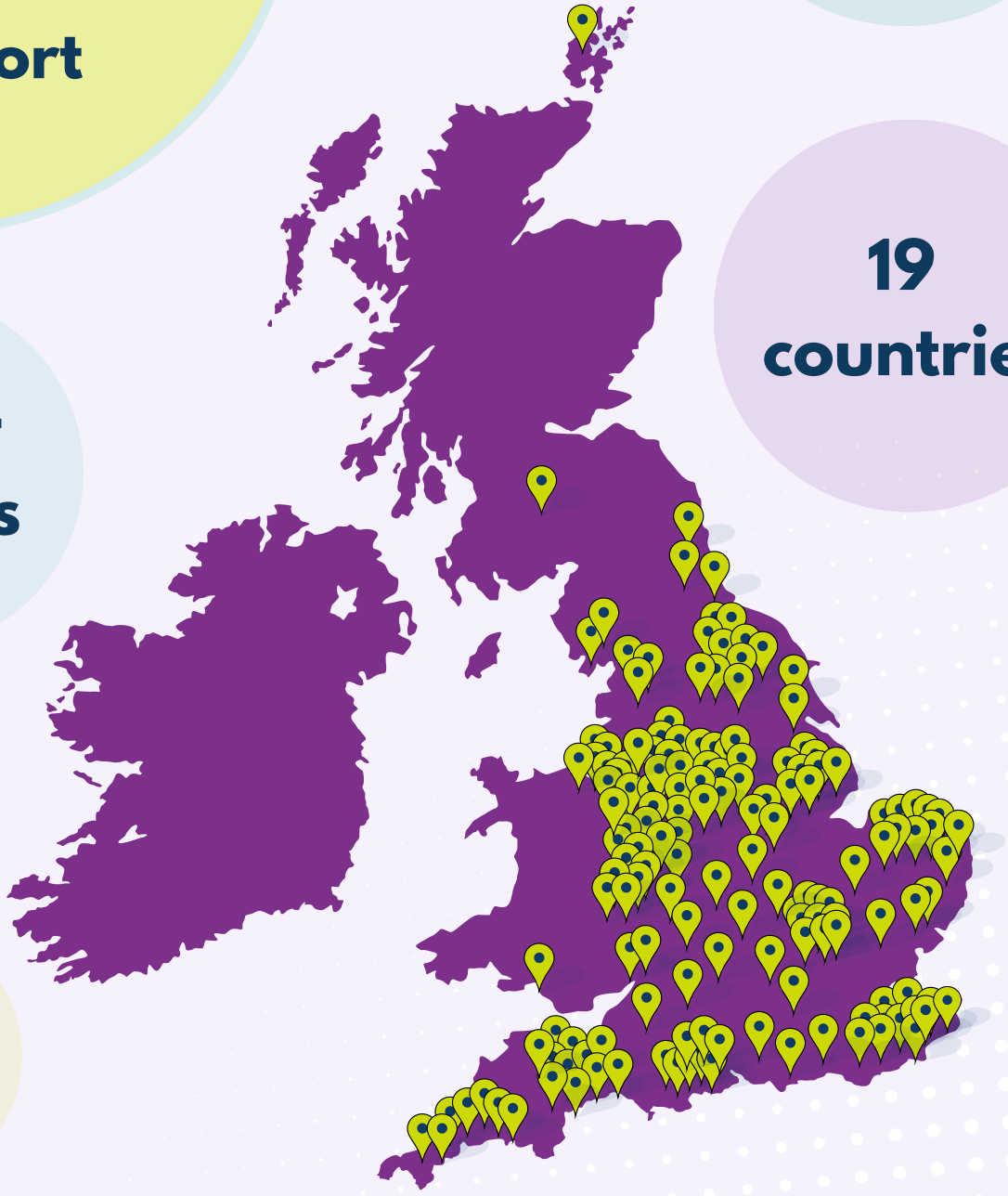
Session 2 - Beginning (option 1)
Cut up the words and rearrange them into a simple sentence. Add a capital letter at the start and a full stop at the end.

the	boy	climbed	over	the	rocks
it	was	a	sunny	day	
they	saw	a	grey	seal	

Reach of Pathways Literacy and school support

187 MATs

371,000+ pupils



19 countries

1,300+ schools

139 LAs

Did you know?

We have a dedicated community of schools who will show you around and give you important insights into our unique English programmes.

Take a look at the schools in your area

Case Studies

Discover the impact of our literacy support

The Acorns Primary and Nursery School, Ellesmere Port

Since implementing Pathways to Write, we have seen a significant transformation in writing across our school. The high-quality texts have engaged and inspired our pupils, creating a genuine enthusiasm for writing and developing strong pupil voice. Children speak confidently about the texts they study and the writing skills they are learning. As a school with mixed-age classes, we have particularly valued the flexible planning structure, which enables all pupils to access the same rich learning experiences while ensuring those who need additional support receive targeted teaching within the classroom. This inclusive approach has helped raise expectations and outcomes for all learners. Since adopting Pathways to Write, attainment in writing has improved year-on-year, with increasing numbers of pupils achieving both age-related expectations and greater depth. Pathways to Write has provided a consistent, engaging, and inclusive framework that has had a lasting impact on both teaching and learning.

St Barnabas, Warrington

Since our school has begun using Pathways to Write, our children's passion for writing has increased. The quality of texts is fantastic and incredibly appealing to our children. I love the new style of planning! The Pathways team have done an outstanding job at providing a flexible scheme that we have tailored to the needs of our children, ensuring all children make excellent progress. The CPD offered has been invaluable and has created confident writing teachers across our whole school!



Oldfield Primary School, Chester

The staff have found the new Pathways Platform incredibly easy to navigate. Having everything accessible in one place is invaluable, and it's reassuring to know that documents are continually reviewed and updated. We've also benefited from resources we hadn't previously purchased, such as the mixed-age planning, which has been particularly helpful when adapting activities for specific cohorts or individual pupils.

The platform has been extremely supportive for new members of staff and for teachers moving to different year groups. As English Lead, I've been able to direct colleagues to videos and key documents with ease, and the platform has made sharing information during staff meetings far more efficient.

Product CPD and training

Another successful year in 2025-26 delivering a wide range of bespoke training tailored to suit the needs of every school. **295** schools have been supported in 25-26 alone in **80** different local authorities. From Initial Teacher Training to Special Schools, from large MAT cluster groups to small primary schools, from Oslo to Dubai and places in between, we plan and deliver training to develop English within different contexts.



Subject knowledge



In-school moderation



Cluster moderation



1:1 planning support



MAT training clusters



Learning walks



Modelled lessons and team teaching



Introduction to Pathways products

"Our consultant delivered a brilliant session that left all staff feeling confident and EXCITED to go and teach reading to our children! The training reaffirmed our passion for reading, and the impact this has on children and their development. It was great to be able to practise some of the fluency skills, e.g. choral reading, echo reading."

"This is some of the best CPD staff have during the year."

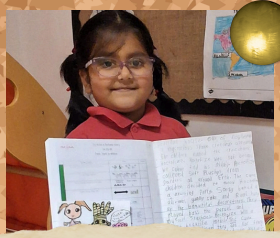
"The support was insightful, practical and impactful. Staff feel more confident in leading English, priorities are clearer, and the focused targets have helped us identify and address gaps across the school."

"The consultant was phenomenal when working with each year group team during the day. In each session, she led with enthusiasm, obvious expertise and purpose. She allowed staff to be reflective and was open to their ideas. Each team left their hour long session with a concrete plan for moving forwards - not a second was wasted!"

Highlights from 2026



Team wellbeing day - Chocolate making workshop



The amazing work we receive from Pathways schools



Some of our fabulous team at the BESA Awards 2026



Meeting Floella Benjamin, author of Coming to England.





Storyhouse and Porto Poetry Projects



Had the pleasure of meeting the previous Lord Mayor of Chester Sherin Akhtar



We won the Education Company of the Year at the nEdEx Awards



New book deliveries from our partner Peters

What do our customers think?



100%

are extremely likely to recommend The Literacy Company to a friend or colleague

95%

say that Pathways products meet their needs well or very well

100%

rate the platform positively based on accessibility, ease of use and breadth of content

90%

rate the product training as extremely or very helpful

100%

customer satisfaction with Pathways to Write, Pathways to Read and Pathways to Progress

"I just had to contact you and say that I absolutely love the new style of planning"

"We enjoyed your clear pathways and links to the NC. The help and consultations have also been faultless. An amazing resource"

"I have worked with The LC in a previous school and wanted to continue. It feels like a personal service and all the staff there are very supportive. I think the resources are always up to date and appropriate. They are engaging and fun too and staff and pupils both really enjoy them. Dare I admit that it was The LC that made me understand and enjoy Shakespeare! "

Pupil data

Celebrating some of the success stories from our Pathways schools.

The Meadows, Staffordshire

- Writing 2024 71%
- Writing 2025 77%
- Writing 2026 83% ★

Gotham Primary, Nottingham

- Writing 2024 67%
- Writing 2025 48%
- Writing 2026 75% ★

St Peters CE Primary School, Paddington

- Writing 2025 59%
- Writing 2026 83% ★

Lindow Community Primary School

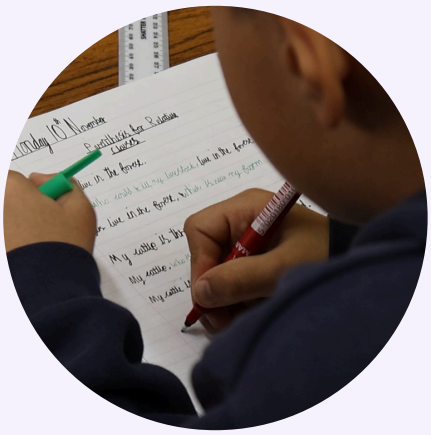
- Reading 2024 72%
- Reading 2025 88%
- Reading 2026 93% ★

Lindow Community Primary School

- Writing 2024 78%
- Writing 2025 88%
- Writing 2026 86% ★

St Basils Primary, Halton (59% PPG)

- Reading 2023 70%
- Reading 2025 83%
- Reading 2026 85% ★



Thank you

AirEd
Alison Gilbert
BESA
Bolt Books
Childer Thornton English Hub
Cheshire West and Chester LA
Chris Ford – Pikemere Web Services
CLTA
Communitas
Department for Education
ECM
Education Endowment Foundation
Heather PR
Insight 6
James McLean – MC Media Creative
Jo Hewson – Omega Trust
nEdEx
Office Essentials
Olex AI
Peters Bookshop
Richard Dawson
Sales Geek
Scheme Support
Schoot
Storyhouse
Teach Active
The HR Dept
Theatre Porto
West Cheshire and North Wales Chamber of Commerce
Wrexham LA

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