

Read Write Inc. Fresh Start in secondary schools

Only students who are able to read accurately and at a sufficient pace to make sense of what they read can access a secondary school curriculum.

Those who read too slowly or struggle to read unfamiliar words cannot make sufficient progress at school. It is the unfamiliar words that drive their learning across the curriculum: catalyst, homogeneity, functional, imperative, geopolitical, effervescent, egregious.

And it is their ability to read familiar words automatically that will allow them to lift the meaning from the page.

Fresh Start is a systematic synthetic phonics programme for older struggling readers. It teaches students to read unfamiliar words accurately and therefore read texts fluently and with understanding.

Students can make significant progress if they receive a few months of intensive individual or small-group teaching for 25 minutes every day.

It is for:

- students who have slipped through their primary school's reading net
- students who have missed schooling
- late arrivals into the school: those who are new to the UK education system or whose first language is not English.

It is not for students with significant learning difficulties; they will need to follow Read Write Inc. Phonics. That programme uses a smaller-step approach and provides a greater amount of practice.

The programme

Direct teaching

Direct teaching underpins Fresh Start. Every day, students learn new letter-sounds, and review previous sounds and words. They apply what they've been taught by reading words containing the sounds they know in lively, age-appropriate stories and non-fiction texts that are closely matched to their increasing phonic knowledge. By the end of the programme, they will be able to read these accurately and fluently.

- 2 I trotted up the hillside with my cartload of wood, sniffing the crisp air and looking around me. From here, I could look down in two directions – over the sea, and inland towards the beautiful mountains. It was over these mountains that I noticed something strange – a massive dark cloud in the shape of a pine tree, with a trunk and branches. For some reason, it made me feel uncomfortable. Mountain weather was never predictable, but still ... Paulus flicked the reins, and I concentrated on the rocky path.

Time for teaching

Students are taught either individually or in a small progress group for 25 minutes each day. This means they learn at their 'challenge' level for over two hours a week.

Duration of programme

The duration will depend on each student's starting place. Some students might need only a few weeks' tutoring; others may need two or three terms.

Grouping

Students' phonic knowledge is assessed before they start the programme, and then every half term. Regrouping them maximises their progress and allows reading tutors to provide extra practice for some students and whisk others through the programme.

The free [online assessment and guidance](#) identifies which students need Fresh Start, and where they should start on the programme. This will help you decide how many students need the programme and guide you in how to group them.

We recommend that those who are learning at the early stages of the programme (Modules 1 to 14) receive one-to-one tuition, and those who start after the half-way mark work in groups at the same phonic level.

If students are at different starting points, they **cannot** be taught together.

Students with special educational needs and disabilities

Those students with significant cognitive delay might be better taught using Read Write Inc. Phonics Fast Track Tutoring. Although designed for younger pupils, the programme provides significantly more reading practice than Fresh Start.

Reading tutors

Students make rapid progress when they have individual support from an enthusiastic and well-trained tutor. This may be a teacher or teaching assistant.

Some schools choose two or three tutors who work with *all* the students who need extra support. Above all, tutors must be committed to teaching students to read – the student must know that the tutor is on their side and will stick with them until they succeed.

Role of the reading leader

If the school has high numbers of students following Fresh Start, a reading leader will be needed to co-ordinate the teaching. This might be a senior leader, the head of learning support or the SENCo. The reading leader provides support for the reading tutors, organises practice sessions for them, assesses students' phonic progress every half-term, and ensures tutors' time is protected so tutoring can take place every day.

Home support

Read Write Inc. provides everything needed to support parents in helping students practise reading at home. Students take home their Fresh Start module at the end of each week. Anthologies are also available for additional home reading.

The Virtual Classroom has over 600 lessons. A lesson can be sent home after it has been taught in school. This is particularly helpful if a student has missed schooling.

RMT training and data-driven school support

Ruth Miskin Training has a team of 120+ trainers who work in schools across the country. Our blended training packages combine face-to-face training and in-school support with comprehensive online training.

Our packages include:

1. Online Subscription
2. Leadership Implementation Day
3. Face-to-face training day/s
4. Development Days
5. Remote progress meetings.

The amount of support we provide depends upon the number of students who need Fresh Start. This is why students will need to be assessed with the Fresh Start assessment before a decision is made on the package (see Grouping above).

For schools with 10 or fewer struggling readers, only elements 1 and 5 are included in the package. Most secondary schools have more than 10 struggling readers, so we provide all five elements in the first year, and 1, 4 and 5 in subsequent years.

Fresh Start training

1. Online Subscription

Bite-sized training: trains tutors to teach Fresh Start

In-action films: watch experienced teachers in lessons

Virtual Classroom: age-appropriate Set 1, 2 and 3 phonic lessons:

- use during lessons to assess students' progress and improve teaching
- give students extra individual practice
- continue lessons if someone less experienced has to teach a group
- send home the lessons you have taught the group each week.

2. Leadership Implementation Day

We show the reading leader the systems necessary to ensure success. This day is essential for secondary schools with high numbers of struggling readers. This does not require a school closure.

We show you how to:

- upload data to the RMT portal and analyse it
- ensure students are grouped homogeneously
- run weekly practice sessions and coach reading tutors
- set online training pathways.

3. Face-to-face training day

We show your reading tutors, step by step, how to teach reading using our latest training steps. The trainer galvanises reading tutors to reach every student – whatever their age and background.

4. Development Days

We work with the reading leader, reading tutors and students while the school is open.

We work with your reading leader to:

- analyse current data from the RMT portal and decide next steps
- implement weekly practice sessions and coach reading tutors
- set online training pathways for individual tutors
- make the most of the Virtual Classroom in school and at home.

5. Remote progress meetings

The hour-long remote progress meetings are with the reading leader and a senior leader, held via Microsoft Teams or Zoom.

Using assessment data downloaded to the School Portal, we discuss the progress data, decide the next steps for students who are receiving tutoring, and plan reading tutor practice and coaching.

Cost of training packages

There are two training packages.

You will need to assess your students to help you decide which package is better for your school.

Download the assessment guide [here](#).

For secondary schools with 10 or more struggling readers

First year	Yearly renewal
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One year's access to the Online Fresh Start Training Subscription• Leadership Implementation Day• One Development Day• Two remote progress meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One-year's access to Fresh Start Online Training Subscription• One Development Day• Two remote progress meetings
£2,050 + VAT	£1,450 + VAT
Also available: in-school training One day face-to-face training (up to 20 people) £1,100 + VAT	

Mini-package for schools with 10 or fewer struggling readers

First year	Yearly renewal
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One-year's access to Fresh Start Online Training Subscription• 2 x two-hour remote training sessions for one or two tutors and Reading Leader (<i>about a month apart</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One-year's access to Fresh Start Online Training Subscription• 1 x two-hour remote training session for one or two tutors and Reading Leader*
£1,200 + VAT	£900 + VAT

*Further two-hour remote training sessions available to book.



Start up Resources Pack

Fresh Start single tutor pack - £101.00

Fresh Start single student pack - £99.50 (consumable)

Fresh Start Anthologies 1 to 7 – single copies of each of seven titles - £78.75

*NOTE: Costs are approximate. A consultant from Oxford University Press prepares a quote based on the needs of each school.

Prices valid until 31 December 2022

Additional resources

Fresh Start example costings - based on all students completing introductory module to module 33

2 tutors, 10 students £1063.00 + Anthologies £335.00

5 tutors, 30 students £3088.00 + Anthologies £1,005.00

Contact – Oxford University Press

[Find your Oxford Educational Consultant](#)