

TIME TO ACT

Research Project Information Sheet



We are delighted to share some exciting news with you. Your child's class has been selected to take part in the Royal Shakespeare Company's research project, *Time to Act*. With funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, the RSC is working with Year 5 teachers and pupils across England to assess the impact of rehearsal room practices for improving young people's reading, writing, and perceptions of themselves as learners.

Why are we doing this research?

We believe that an arts-rich education is the best way to prepare young people for life beyond school: unlocking potential, contributing to health and happiness, and fostering vital skills for life and work. The RSC has an established [learning programme](#) and evidence that demonstrates the value of using rehearsal room approaches to Shakespeare—the same techniques used by our actors and directors—with students of all ages and abilities. We will be working with 70 Year 5 classes across England to gather more evidence of that impact.

Who is carrying out the research?

Two RSC Research Fellows, Dr Matthew Collins and Dr Lynsey McCulloch, are leading the project. Your child's Year 5 teacher will carry out the research in the classroom.

How will the research be conducted?

In January 2023, pupils will take some simple exercises administered by teachers or teaching assistants in the classroom that will assess language skills and pupils' perceptions of themselves as learners. Pupils will then undertake the same exercises in July 2023, with the addition of a short writing exercise. Researchers will then be able to compare pupils' responses to responses from pupils elsewhere in England who have experienced rehearsal room techniques in the classroom.

After testing has been completed in July 2023, your Year 5 teacher will receive five days' training in rehearsal room techniques and will be able to share these approaches with the school.

How will my child's data be used?

The RSC conducts research in accordance with the highest standards of research integrity. As such, we comply with regulations and legislation that govern the conduct of research, including data protection laws. Any personal information collected in this research project will be anonymised before findings are shared or published. Data on participants will be retained for as long as it is required for the research project and no longer. You can find the RSC's Privacy Policy [here](#).

For this project, the RSC is collaborating with OxEd & Assessment. OxEd is a University of Oxford spinout company and producer of educational assessment apps. You can find OxEd's Privacy Statement [here](#).

How will my child benefit from this research?

Children will benefit from classroom activities delivered by teachers trained by the RSC, one of the world's leading performing arts organisations. Pupils will also help evidence the value of an arts-rich education and support their Year 5 teacher's professional development.

What will happen to the results of the research?

The RSC plans to publish a report on the outcomes of this research project in 2023/24. This report will be shared with parents alongside participating schools, teachers, and pupils. We hope to share this report with policy makers and findings will be shared with other academic researchers through publications and at conferences.

Further information

The research team can be contacted for further information at research@rsc.org.uk. If you have any concerns, or do not wish your child to be assessed, please speak to your Year 5 teacher.

Time to Act: Evaluating the Impact of Royal Shakespeare Company Pedagogy on Literacy and Academic Self-Concept in Primary Schools has been reviewed and approved by the RSC Research Ethics Panel.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.