



# Unlocking Letters and Sounds

## FAQs

Choosing an SSP is an important decision for your school, so you need to know that **Unlocking Letters and Sounds** is right for you. Here we answer some FAQs, but please do get in touch if you have any more questions.

### What is Unlocking Letters and Sounds?

It is an SSP that will support your pupils to read, spell and write fluently and quickly. The programme has been created by practising teachers who teach phonics every day. We understand the challenges that many teachers face and are passionate in wanting to support other schools to enable every child to read.

As a group of schools, we have used the *2007 Letters and Sounds* framework with huge success for over a decade and we understand its strengths. Having worked with many schools and teachers, we also understand the resources and guidance that is missing from the 2007 framework, and the challenges and workload that this creates. We have therefore developed **Unlocking Letters and Sounds** to provide all the resources and guidance to allow other schools to implement it successfully in their classrooms. This will ensure that school leaders can ensure fidelity to the programme across their schools and ensure that their staff have the training, resources and guidance that they need.

### How is Unlocking Letters and Sounds different from the 2007 L&S framework?

The main difference is that **Unlocking Letters and Sounds** is a full SSP that contains all the resources and guidance required by the DfE to be a validated SSP.

The progression of GPCs and common exception words ('tricky words') matches the 2007 L&S framework progression, with the small addition of some suffixes in Phase 4 to ensure that we meet the requirements of the National Curriculum. This progression allows children to be able to practise blending rapidly and to apply their phonics skills.

Keeping the 2007 progression means that any decodable reading books that you already have in your school can continue to be used with **Unlocking Letters and Sounds**.

### What does Unlocking Letters and Sounds include?

**Unlocking Letters and Sounds** includes everything a school needs to deliver high quality phonics lessons and interventions to ensure that every child is a reader. All resources ensure fidelity to the programme and support all staff, from ECTs to the very experienced, to deliver high quality phonics provision.

Resources include:

- a full phonics programme from Foundation Stage to Year 2, with a term-by-term progression with weekly coverage

	2007 Letters and Sounds Framework	Unlocking Letters and Sounds
2007 Progression (GPCs and CEW)	✓	✓
Meets the full requirements of the NC for KS1		✓
Daily lesson plans from Phase 2 – 5		✓
Full training package including individualised support for schools		✓
Reading guidance and group reading plans		✓
Handwriting guidance and patters		✓
Flashcards, sound mats and friezes		✓
Image and action for every GPC		✓
Glossary		✓

- daily lesson plans, from the start to the end of the programme, including pedagogy guidance for every phase
- daily lesson slides, designed for whole-class or whole-group use on a whiteboard, to accompany every lesson
- a walkthrough of a sample lesson for each phase
- videos to exemplify lesson structure and pedagogy, and to support training
- a glossary to ensure consistency of language in all classrooms
- flashcards, sound mats and friezes
- an action and an image for all GPCs in Phases 2 and 3
- handwriting guidance, including patters to support letter formation
- assessment, both diagnostic and summative, and a time-saving assessment record spreadsheet
- observation and coaching records for Phonics/Reading Leaders to support members of staff
- interventions to support the specific needs of all children, but particularly your lowest-performing 20% (including those children in KS2 who have not yet secured their phonics skills)
- a comprehensive training package that includes whole-school training, in school development days,

coaching support for Phonics/Reading Leaders, and termly networks for Phonics/Reading Leaders using **Unlocking Letters and Sounds**

- a group reading model to allow children to practise and apply their phonics skills
- **Unlocking Letters and Sounds** handbooks: each phase is accompanied by its own dedicated handbook
- a full set of decodable reading books that match the **Unlocking Letters and Sounds** progression exactly. The **Ransom Reading Stars**, published by **Ransom Publishing**, contain over 150 fully decodable readers that match the progression, with new fully decodable books to read every week. More titles are also in development
- resources to engage parents
- a full bank of online lessons to use in the event of school closures

## Are there decodable reading books to match **Unlocking Letters and Sounds**?

Yes. We have partnered with **Ransom Publishing** to ensure that you have a full range of decodable books that match the progression of **Unlocking Letters and Sounds**. The **Ransom Reading Stars** readers cover Phase 1 (books without words) right through to Phase 5 and are carefully structured to introduce new letters and sounds on a week-by-week basis, as soon as they are introduced in **Unlocking Letters and Sounds**.

## Is there training available?

Whole-school training is essential to ensure that all members of staff understand the programme and deliver it with expertise and fidelity. **Unlocking Letters and Sounds** is accompanied by a full training programme, available to meet the needs of all schools. This includes:

- whole-school training (which includes up to 3 training places during the academic year for new members of staff)
- termly networks for Phonics/Reading Leaders from schools who have subscribed to our training
- 'Open' training sessions for schools who have new members of staff joining them
- dedicated lowest 20% and intervention training to engage parents
- Phonics/Reading Leader Training
- Development Days

## What is the cost?

In order to give all schools access to a high quality SSP we have partnered with **Ransom Publishing** and are offering a free year's subscription to the first 300 schools who subscribe to **Unlocking Letters and Sounds**. This will give you access to all our resources and a briefing session for your Phonics/Early Reading Leader.

Additional resources developed during the year are included in this. Following this, or if you are not one of our initial 300 schools, there is a cost-effective annual subscription model based on the size of your school.

Schools can also purchase additional printed resources (flashcards, sound mats, handbooks, etc).

Training costs are priced in addition to this. We are also able to build individual packages to meet the needs of your school.

As a group of schools, we are driven by a passion to ensure every child becomes a reader as quickly as possible. We also want to ensure that all staff are supported to deliver high quality phonics provision. We are not aiming to make a profit through the sale of this programme, so we are able to keep costs low and ensure the programme is accessible to all schools.