

Funded by
Department
for Education



English Hubs
Whiteknights English Hub



**LITERACY SPECIALIST
INFORMATION
2026-2027**



 **Are you a Reading or English Lead with significant experience in one or more of the following areas?**

Teaching **systematic synthetic phonics** in Reception and Key Stage 1

Developing reading **accuracy, fluency and comprehension** in Key Stage 2 or Key Stage 3

 **Or are you an Early Years leader with significant experience in:**

Developing **language and early literacy** across the EYFS

 **Are you confident planning and modelling lessons, team teaching and leading INSET sessions?**

 **Are you passionate about ensuring that every child becomes confident in reading and loves to read?**



Read on to find out more



Whiteknights Primary School is entering its ninth year as an English Hub and has established a highly successful team, driven by a strong commitment to improving reading outcomes for children.

To support this work, we are looking to enhance our team by appointing a Literacy Specialist to work **with four schools, delivering up to 30 days** of school support in 2026/27. As a newly appointed Literacy Specialist, you will be supported through a national training programme and shadowing opportunities with the English Hub Lead. You will then work to provide support for schools, ranging from an initial audit to intensive support, as well as contributing to the delivery of Reading Leader training.

We are seeking enthusiastic practitioners with expertise in, and a passion for, phonics, early reading, reading fluency and early language development, who are keen to take this opportunity to further develop their expertise and make a meaningful impact on schools across our region.

What are English Hubs?

In September 2018, the DfE appointed 34 English Hub schools across England to support schools to deliver excellent early language and phonics teaching in Reception and Key Stage 1. We are delighted that Whiteknights Primary School was chosen to be one of these 34 English Hubs.

English Hubs are responsible for:

- Developing early language and closing the word gap
- Developing early reading through systematic synthetic phonics (SSP)
- Promoting a love of reading.

From September 2025, the English Hubs programme expanded into developing reading and fluency in KS3.

Literacy Specialists

Literacy Specialists are experienced EYFS, Primary and Secondary teachers, often middle leaders in their own settings who have an excellent knowledge of the development of reading and language development and a proven track record in improving early reading in their school. You will have a minimum of three years experience in teaching or leading early reading or language development, underpinned by excellent subject knowledge.

This is an important leadership role which will give you the capacity to drive improvements in teaching phonics and early reading at schools throughout Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes, North Hampshire, Oxfordshire, and Surrey.

As a Literacy Specialist, you will work three days per week supporting schools on their phonics and early reading journey. Our recruited Literacy Specialists will receive high quality national training offered by the DfE and attend a compulsory induction day and

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shadow training day with the Hub Lead. In addition, we will provide further internal training and meetings to ensure that you feel well equipped and confident to fulfil the role.

This is an incredibly exciting opportunity, which will provide you with expertise that can support and progress your career and the opportunity to impact on the lives of children across our region.



Job Specification

If you are considering applying to become a Literacy Specialist Teacher, please read the following criteria to check your eligibility:

- You are a practicing classroom teacher with significant experience of teaching systematic synthetic phonics in Reception and Key Stage 1 **or** developing fluency in KS2 or KS3 **or** developing language and literacy in EYFS.
- You will have experience in teaching in schools with different contexts, such as high levels of mobility
- You consistently achieve strong outcomes for pupils, demonstrated through evidence such as achieving at least national averages for Good Level of Development in Reception, above national outcomes in the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check, or strong KS2 SATs results, and can clearly articulate your contribution to securing these outcomes.
- You understand the importance of fidelity when teaching a phonics programme and having decodable books which match the phonetic sounds children have been taught.
- You can demonstrate an excellent understanding of early language development, phonics and how to develop a reading for pleasure culture.
- You can demonstrate the importance of developing fluency in reading
- You have experience of mentoring and offering support to others. This might include experience of school-to-school support. You have a positive, constructive approach and are able to identify specific strengths and next steps.
- You are confident developing action plans, planning and modelling lessons, team teaching and leading training.
- You are passionate about ensuring that every child becomes confident in reading and loves to read.
- To facilitate the demand for supporting schools in different DfE approved SSPs, you need to be willing to train in varying SSPs outside of your 'speciality programme'.

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In the first instance, each of our Literacy Specialists will be working intensively with up to four schools, delivering up to 30 days of school support in 2026/27. The support will focus on improving the outcomes of pupils in the area of phonics, early reading, language and literacy development and/or reading fluency in Reception, KS1, KS2 or KS3

This work will involve working closely with school leaders to develop and implement a robust and effective action plan. Using your considerable skills and expertise you will be completing a wide variety of work depending on the needs of the school including:

- Supporting schools in developing their understanding and delivery of their chosen SSP scheme.
- Supporting schools in developing language and literacy in Reception
- Supporting schools in developing early reading and fluency in KS2 and KS3
- Coaching / mentoring individual members of staff.
- Providing staff training.
- Modelling high quality phonics teaching.
- Helping schools audit and develop resources to enhance the teaching of phonics and early reading.
- To support partner school leaders to implement the Challenge Checklist (a list of DfE approved objectives to drive achievements in early reading)

As the role encompasses significant travel to access the national training and to provide support across the region, travel and approved expenses will be paid in addition.

To ensure we recruit the best possible specialists we will carry out a rigorous selection process.

This will include:

- Detailed application form including reference from your Head teacher.
- A face to face interview.
- An observation of a phonics or reading lesson.
- Reviewing your school's phonics and early reading outcomes.

Interested in applying?

Please email your interest to **Emma Woodward** at: ewoodward@whiteknightsenglishhub.org.uk

**Application forms will be supplied upon request.*

 **Completed applications need to be submitted by:**

12:00pm on the 27th March 2026