

Information Pack

StepsWeb UK Schools 2027 Pilot 1

About

We're inviting schools to explore an established online literacy program. In return we will give you free access and support getting started.

Participating schools will be asked to share feedback on implementing and using StepsWeb, including how it fits into their existing teaching, and how pupils respond. These experiences will help us improve our support for UK schools and identify priorities for future program development.

This information pack explains what StepsWeb is and how it works, what participating schools will receive, what taking part in the pilot involves, and how to register your interest.

What is StepsWeb?

[StepsWeb](#) is an adaptive online literacy program designed to support pupils in KS1-KS4, including struggling and extension students.

Grounded in the Science of Reading, it supports phonological awareness, phonic knowledge, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

Each pupil works at their own level and pace, with individualised practice to reinforce learning. Diagnostic assessments and progress reporting help teachers identify gaps and plan targeted support alongside their teaching.



**1,200+ schools
currently using
StepsWeb**



**We have helped
400,000+ students**



**Supports the
English Curriculum**



**Designed for
KS1-KS4**

Why we're running this Pilot Project

For 25 years, the team behind StepsWeb has developed research-based literacy teaching resources used by thousands of educators worldwide. Launched in 2015, StepsWeb is now used in a third of New Zealand's schools, alongside a growing number of schools in Australia and other countries.

Originally developed with reference to the English Curriculum, StepsWeb is already used by UK schools and families, and over the past year, we've seen increasing interest.

We want to work more closely with UK schools to understand how StepsWeb fits into their teaching, what support schools and educators need when introducing the program, and which enhancements would make the online program more useful for UK educators and pupils.

Visit our website: stepsweb.com

How does StepsWeb work?

When a pupil logs in for the first time, they take a Spelling Placement Test. This test assesses their spelling age, and places them onto the structured literacy Course. Students then work through activities on the online Course, completing their weekly goals, while the program automatically tracks their progress and provides individualised reinforcement.

Educators receive weekly emails with an overview of their students' weekly goal progress. It is crucial that students complete as many of their weekly goals as possible to make good progress. Weekly Goals are anywhere between 10–20 activities, approximately 30–60 minutes, per week, depending on the student's literacy needs. Studies have seen students achieve 14 months literacy progress after just six months of consistent weekly goal completion.

Educators will receive information on student literacy progress, reporting, and real-time activity from their educator account to ensure students are on track.



Research-based activities



Inclusive, individualised approach



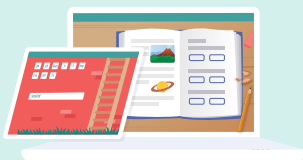
Intuitive and easy to use



Automatic diagnostic reporting

Implementation of StepsWeb

To work effectively, students need the following....



An online-connected device



Headphones



**To complete weekly goals
(30–60 minutes per week)**



Pilot 1

The opportunity at a glance

Free access to an established literacy program, with support to get started and an opportunity to help shape its development for UK schools.



Who

UK primary and secondary schools
KS1 – KS4



Cost

Free pilot access



Support

Online training and help getting started

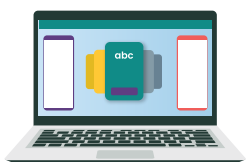


Requirement

Use StepsWeb and share your experience

The pilot is open to UK schools that are new to StepsWeb. Schools already using StepsWeb are not eligible to participate.

What your school receives



Free access to StepsWeb



A report sharing pilot findings



A discounted continuation offer
Terms and conditions apply.

Pilot 1 Key dates

Registration due

11 December

Register your interest on our website.

Start date

4 January

We will help schools get set up on StepsWeb and direct educators to online training before sending an initial survey about your goals.

Duration

25 teaching weeks

Schools will have free access to StepsWeb until 21 July. We will reach out twice to see if you need any support and send feedback surveys.

End date

21 July

Participating schools will receive a final report of what we've learned before the end of the pilot.

What it involves



Set your goals



Complete online training



Use StepsWeb with pupils



Share feedback through surveys



Want to find out more?

Register your interest on our [website](#).

What participation involves (Pilot 1)

Register your interest

 Before 11 December 2026

Fill out our online form to register your interest. Registering does not guarantee a place in the pilot, and after registering interest you can opt-out at any time. Join our live Q&A webinar on 1 December 2026, where we'll introduce StepsWeb, explain what taking part involves, and answer your questions.

Participation confirmation

 Week starting 14 December 2026

Once your school's participation is confirmed and the pilot participation agreement is signed, we will help set up your StepsWeb account, direct you to online training and ask you to complete a short survey about your goals before pupils start using the program.

Onboarding and training

 First two weeks of using StepsWeb

Our training videos will give your educators the best start at understanding and using the program, every educator using StepsWeb should watch the following videos:

- Walkthrough for beginners: Educator Welcome Screen (5:51 minutes)
- Understanding the StepsWeb Course (13:28 minutes)
- How to add students onto StepsWeb (2:21 minutes)
- How the Spelling Placement Test works (4:30 minutes)
- Monitoring Progress (5:31 minutes)

Educators will receive a series of onboarding emails during the first two weeks with links to these videos. For this pilot, we recommend schools follow the basic online Course. Assigning extra work for students is not necessary, but it is an option. We also have a [Support Site](#), which contains useful content for learning how to use StepsWeb.

Getting started on StepsWeb

 4 January 2027

Students can be added onto StepsWeb in bulk quickly and easily using CSV tools. If you need assistance with this, we are happy to help or upload them for you. Once students have been added they are given login credentials so they can access StepsWeb to take the initial Spelling Placement Test.

This will assess their spelling age, and place them onto the appropriate level of the StepsWeb online course. It's important for teachers to check the spelling test results via their educator accounts, to ensure their pupils' placements align with what they know about each pupil's spelling ability. Although it is rare, some students will sometimes sabotage their test and be placed on a level which does not reflect their actual spelling age.

● Using StepsWeb

 4 January 2027 – 21 July 2027

After students finish their initial test and are placed, they will begin working through StepsWeb's online activities. The program will assign a specific number of activities for the student to complete per week, these are their weekly goals. Students should be encouraged to complete their weekly goals to see good literacy progress.

Educators will receive weekly emails with information about their students' progress. Educators also have access to real-time monitoring on StepsWeb to identify any students who are stuck and need a hand to move forward.

Teachers will need to include approximately 30–60 minutes of StepsWeb time per week, ideally through multiple 15–20 minute sessions over the week. We don't recommend using StepsWeb for one 60-minute long session, as StepsWeb is designed to reinforce and consolidate literacy knowledge and this can feel repetitive for students using the program for long durations. Students will need their own devices and headphones to access the Course.

● Feedback from you

 4 January 2027 – 21 July 2027

During the pilot, we'll check in by email and ask all educators using StepsWeb to share feedback through surveys. There will be an initial survey before getting started, then two check-in surveys during the pilot period. The surveys should take no longer than 15 minutes each, and they will evaluate:

- Your goals and expectations of StepsWeb.
- Your implementation challenges and successes.
- Any pain points experienced along the way.
- How the StepsWeb onboarding process can be improved for UK schools.

We may respond to your feedback with possible solutions to any pain points you are experiencing. Feedback from the survey will be anonymised for the final report. If you make any comments we would like to share with a wider audience, we will ask permission first.

● After the pilot

Each school will be sent a copy of the final report. Participating schools are under no obligation to continue using StepsWeb after the pilot, but will have the option to continue using StepsWeb at a discounted rate. Terms and conditions apply.

Pilot 2 will function similarly, but over a shorter time period. Please contact us for more details.

Pilot 1 Timeline

Dec		31 Nov – 4 Dec	1 Dec – Live Q&A Webinar.
		7 – 11 Dec	Register your interest by 11 Dec.
		14 – 18 Dec	StepsWeb contacts schools chosen for participation.
		21 – 25 Dec	Christmas holiday.
		28 Dec – 1 Jan	Christmas holiday.
Jan	1	4 – 8 Jan	First official week of Pilot 1. Schools start using StepsWeb + fill survey.
	2	11 – 15 Jan	
	3	18 – 22 Jan	
	4	25 – 29 Jan	
Feb	5	1 – 5 Feb	
	6	8 – 12 Feb	
		15 – 19 Feb	Half-term break.
	7	22 – 26 Feb	
Mar	8	1 – 5 Mar	Schools receive first check-in email and second survey.
	9	8 – 12 Mar	
	10	15 – 19 Mar	
	11	22 – 26 Mar	
		29 Mar – 2 Apr	Easter holiday.
Apr		5 – 9 Apr	Easter holiday.
	12	12 – 16 Apr	
	13	19 – 23 Apr	
	14	26 – 30 Apr	Schools receive second check-in email.
May	15	3 – 7 May	
	16	10 – 14 May	
	17	17 – 21 May	
	18	24 – 28 May	
June		31 – 4 June	Half-term break.
	19	7 – 11 June	Schools receive third check-in email and third survey.
	20	14 – 18 June	
	21	21 – 25 June	
	22	28 June – 2 July	Schools receive pilot report.
July	23	5 – 9 July	
	24	12 – 16 July	
	25	19 – 23 July	

What next?

Register your interest on our website.

Fill out our register form and we will get in touch with further information and a link to our Live Q&A session. Registering your interest doesn't guarantee you a place, and you can opt-out at any time.

You have until 11 December 2027 to register, and we will contact schools the week starting 14 December 2027 to confirm if they have been chosen to participate in the pilot.

We look forward to working with passionate UK educators!



Scan to visit our webpage with more information and the register form.

[Register your school's interest](#)