

Dear colleague,

Thank you for your interest in taking part in the ESU's Action Research programme. This exciting programme, run in conjunction with academics at the University of Durham and the University of Sussex, is designed to support schools to develop their in-house research capacity and contribute to collective understanding of 'what works' in oracy-based classroom practice.

It is an opportunity for your school to work with others across England and Wales, on a ten-month project, supported by CPD and expert advice. The project will culminate in a published report and conference and the sharing of research findings, ideas, and innovation not just in the UK, but to be shared internationally.

Read on to find out more about how your school can get involved.

Project aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop action research skills in the field of oracy • To improve outcomes for learners • To support the development of oracy teaching practice • To add to the oracy research base in a practical way
Participating Schools	Up to 20 state schools or colleges that have engaged with ESU programmes or shown a keen interest in oracy development, and winners or schools in receipt of a commendation from the ESU Oracy Culture Award.
Programme length	The programme will run from December 2024 - September 2025, with a conference in the autumn of 2025 to share findings. Schools will be engaged in active research from February-July, with the summer period designed to allow for the writing up of research findings and reports.
School commitment	<p>One or two lead practitioners to engage in the programme from December 2024 - September 2025 (and autumn conference) as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement with pre-reading and research to shape initial research ideas between December 2024 and January 2025 • Attendance at launch CPD event in London, January 2025 • Engagement in ½ termly online project meetings • Development and delivery of action research project (one per school) • Production of research report • Participation in end of project conference
CPD and expert guidance	<p>Expert guidance and CPD will be provided throughout the programme by the ESU and the University of Durham and the University of Sussex team. This will ensure your lead practitioner(s) develops essential skills in areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action research - overview, how to, question setting • Research ethics • Undertaking action research and capturing data • Good practice in oracy education



10:00	Arrival at ESU headquarters, London
10:15	Welcome and introductions ESU Director of Education and academic representatives from the Speaking Citizens project Rationale for the project
10:45	What is action research and why is it important?**
11:15	Oracy in schools - what is changing?**
12:00	Research ethics*
12:45	Lunch
13:45	Our action research project - how it will work
14:45	Practical exercise
15:30	Closing comments and departure

**Colleagues will be provided with an Oracy Action Research Programme pre-reading list which will include access to the Speak for Change Oracy All Party Parliamentary Group report and scenario-based learning activity

