Effectiveness Trial of 1stClass@Number 1

Pupil Nomination Guide for Schools

Purpose of this guidance

Thank you for participating in this evaluation of 1stClass@Number 1 (1CN1). This is a randomised controlled trial (RCT), where eligible pupils within each school will be randomly allocated to either the intervention group (receives 1CN1 in addition to normal maths lessons) or the control group (receives only normal maths lessons). In order to identify pupils eligible to participate in this trial, we will follow a two-step process. In step 1, schools will be asked to nominate 12 – 16 pupils that they feel are eligible to receive 1CN1. In step 2, these nominated pupils will be screened using the Sandwell Early Numeracy Test (Revised) (SENT-R) to identify the final 8 pupils who will be selected to participate in this trial. It is our expectation that not all pupils who are nominated for screening will be eligible to receive 1CN1 based on their SENT-R scores. This is why we are asking schools to nominate more pupils than the final 8 who will be selected to the trial. This document will provide schools with guidance on step 1 of the process i.e. identifying the 12 – 16 pupils who can be nominated for screening. Please note that you must apply this guidance and nominate pupils for this trial in the spring/summer terms of 2023.

Which pupils can be nominated for screening?

There are three broad eligibility criteria to determine which pupils can be nominated for screening:

1. The pupil should be achieving at around 12 months behind age-related expectations towards the end of Year 1.

2. The pupil should not be participating in another mathematics intervention when 1CN1 is being delivered (autumn 2023/spring 2024).

3. This trial has a focus on the impact of 1CN1 on disadvantaged pupils, especially those in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM). Schools are, therefore, encouraged to nominate FSM-eligible pupils who meet the above criteria.

As mentioned above, the 12 – 16 pupils nominated by your school will undertake the SENT-R in September, 2023 at the start of Year 2 to objectively confirm that they are achieving below age-related expectations.

How can schools determine which pupils needs additional support?

1CN1 is targeted to pupils who may have fallen behind their peers and require additional support at the level of the Year 1 curriculum. They may typically:

- be able to count forwards in ones to 10

- have some knowledge of number facts and also have some understanding of the composition of number within 10
- be able to perform simple addition and subtraction calculations using counting all and counting out approaches
- be able to read and write numbers but lack secure understanding of their magnitude and quantity
- struggle with mathematical vocabulary
- lack confidence in mathematics and be reluctant to talk about their mathematical learning.

What should schools do after identifying pupils they want to nominate?

Once your school has identified the 12 – 16 pupils you would like to nominate for screening, the next step is to send the parent letter shared by NFER with the parents of all these pupils. The parent letter will contain a withdrawal form that will allow parents to withdraw their children from data sharing should they wish to do so. In cases where parents choose to withdraw their child, the child will not participate in further trial-related activities and their data should not be shared with the evaluator.

NFER will be in touch with your school after you have signed the MoU. For pupils not withdrawn from data sharing, your school will then share the following details with NFER: pupil's name, date of birth, UPN and FSM eligibility. We are asking schools to share the FSM eligibility status of nominated pupils as this study has a focus on children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Therefore, the FSM eligibility status provided to us should be the measure used to determine whether or not the pupil attracts Pupil Premium payments and should not reflect any universal FSM eligibility that may be in place due to recent local policy changes. These details should be shared with NFER via our secure data sharing portal whose access information will be sent to your school's key contact for this project along with instructions on how to share the data.

What should schools do if they have fewer than 12 pupils to nominate?

The design of this trial requires that 8 pupils be selected to participate from each school. These 8 pupils from each school will subsequently be randomly assigned to the intervention or control group. Our recommendation is that schools nominate at least 12 pupils for screening as screening a greater number of pupils will ultimately allow us to select the 8 most appropriate pupils for this trial. Schools that do not have 8 pupils at this stage will not be able to participate in the trial.

If you feel that you might not have 12 suitable pupils to nominate for screening, we must ask you to consider whether you have at least 8 pupils who would meet the eligibility criteria for this trial as this is the number of pupils we are looking to select from each school. If you feel you have 8 pupils who would be eligible, when NFER approaches your school to collect pupil data, we may ask you to nominate an additional two pupils who you feel might benefit from the intervention. Nomination of a total of 10 pupils in such a scenario would help to accommodate any changes in the circumstances of the pupils you intend to nominate. For example, if the family of a pupil moves away and the pupil is no longer enrolled at your school, having two additional pupils to select from will give us the opportunity to reach the required target of 8 pupils per school. Please feel free to contact either Edge Hill University or NFER if you would like to discuss this any further.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the nomination process, please contact the evaluation team at
1CN1trial@nfer.ac.uk