


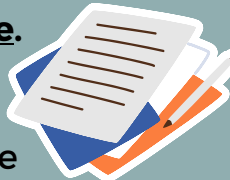
Impact of Covid-19 on Children's Language, Educational and Socio-emotional Skills

July 2023 - Newsletter

We are now finishing the second year of the ICICLES project. Thank you all for your continued support!

In this newsletter we will share with you a few updates and the next steps of the project.

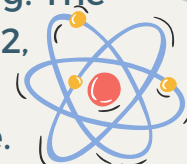
What have we been working on?

- In September 2022 we started the second year of the ICICLES project. Eight new schools joined and many more parents/caregivers have signed up their children for the project. 
- In January 2023 we had our second online networking event where we shared our preliminary findings of the second testing point. You can find the recording [here](#).
- We published an interim briefing focusing on the language skills of children learning English as an Additional Language. You can find it [here](#). 
- We published an interim briefing and wrote an academic article regarding some of your experiences of the pandemic and the long-term and ongoing impact it has had on teachers, headteachers and other staff members. You can find them [here](#).

School questionnaire 2023

In May 2023 we asked all participating schools to complete an online questionnaire and these are some of the preliminary findings:

- Most schools are less concerned about children's outcomes than last academic year. This academic year the two areas that schools are more concerned about in Year 1 are Language and Handwriting. The area where schools are the least concerned is Science. In Year 2, schools are more concerned about Language and Mental Health and Well-being, and are least concerned about Science.



- This year schools are also concerned about attendance levels, a rise in illnesses, and a lack of attention, focus, concentration, independence and resilience, among other things.

- At least 80% of schools think that children need more academic and socioemotional support this year.

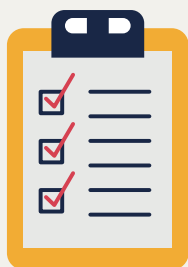


- 63.3% of schools think that pupils and their families need more support this academic year compared to before the pandemic. This is a decrease from the 2021/2022 academic year when 80% of schools reported that pupils and their families required more support than before the pandemic.

- Some of the support that schools are still providing to pupils and their families is access to food banks, more access to Early Help, academic support at home, emotional and behaviour support, support with the cost of living crisis, parent/carer mental health support, financial support, and access to uniforms and clothing.



Testing point 3



At the end of May 2023, we started the third testing point. We asked all schools to complete a language assessment (Language Screen) and a socioemotional questionnaire (Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire). We will analyse the data during the summer and will share with you our findings next academic year.

Next steps

- In September 2023 we will start the third and final year of the ICICLES project.
- We will organize a third online event and will share more information about it in due course.
- In Spring 2024, we will ask all participating schools to complete an online school questionnaire.
- In Summer 2024 we will ask all participating schools to repeat the language and socioemotional only with children in Year 2
- We will contact all schools closer to the start of the third testing point with more information regarding the next steps.



Thank you for your support with the project and we hope you have a restful summer break.

This project has been funded by

If you have any questions or would like more information about the project, please contact us by email or Twitter using the information below.

