

Information on two researches and related publications relevant to the government's synthetic phonics policy

Updated on 17 September 2020 Margaret M Clark OBE

Independent research into the impact of the systematic synthetic phonics government policy on literacy courses at institutions delivering initial teacher education in England

The report of this research is now available to read and download from the [Newman University website](https://www.newman.ac.uk/knowledge-base/impact-of-the-systematic-synthetic-phonics-government-policy-on-literacy-ite-courses/)

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An article summarising the research is available on the same website, as are other relevant articles including one critiquing the recent Ofsted publication, and a reference list of my publication on literacy from 2014 to 2020. These can all be read and downloaded.

This research was undertaken in 2019 by Margaret M. Clark, Sue Reid and Jude Sloan at Newman University, Jonathan Glazzard at Leeds Beckett University and Colin Mills at Manchester University.

In January 2020, Ofsted published a consultation document on the future inspection of initial teacher education institutions in England. The new policy was announced in June and will be implemented in September 2020.

Our research involved a survey which was completed by 38 academics at ITE providers in England, 10 of whom were interviewed to explore in more detail the findings from the survey. This research is evidence of the current situation. The data was collected before the publication of the Ofsted Consultation document in January 2020, the results of which were announced in June 2020, to be implemented in September 2020. It is clear from the report that Ofsted will further curtail the power of professionals in planning the content of their courses in early reading if they wish their institutions to retain the right to train teachers. Please encourage professionals to read our evidence which is relevant to this policy. NB This applies only to England.

Our evidence has been sent to the Education Select Committee and to Ofsted and Preet Kaur Gill MP asked three written questions about the implications of our research on 10 June (see *Education Journal* Issue 416: 67-68 and *Literacy Today* .93: 10-15. Relevant written questions in parliament from that issue are also included.

The Phonics Screening Check 2012-2017: An independent enquiry into the views of headteachers, teachers and parents. Final Report September 2018 edited by Margaret M Clark and Jonathan Glazzard. (Research team also included John Bayley, Sue Reid and Susan Atkinson). Our other independent research report can be read and downloaded from:

<https://www.newman.ac.uk/knowledge-base/the-phonics-screening-check-2012-2017>

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