

Guidance for choosing a phonics programme

Schools that choose to develop their own SSP programme, or choose a programme that has not been validated, should ensure their programme meets the guidance on good SSP teaching in this document. They are advised to read these pages closely to consider how the ideas can be reflected in their own practice. There is a range of programmes available that follow the principles outlined in this document, but they vary considerably in other ways. Schools should therefore consider the following points.

General

- 1. Can the publisher point to studies, existing practice or evaluations as evidence of the success of the programme?**
 - a. [NATE review](#) (2017)
 - b. Testimonials for No Nonsense Phonics Skills can be found [here](#)

- 2. Have school leaders spoken to staff in other schools where the programme is being used?**
 - a. We would be happy to put you in contact with a school that is using the programme. Please email us at feedback@raintree.co.uk so that we can arrange this.

- 3. Is the programme deemed to be complete after two years or does the publisher provide further guidance and resources to build on the foundations?**
 - a. The programme is possible to complete in 2 years, but it is designed to be used as a mainstream or intervention programme and so for some children it may take longer to complete. Older learners can access it at the point appropriate for them.

Costs

- 4. How is the programme accessed, e.g. with a licence online, only through training, in hard copy directly from the publisher, and what are the costs of these different options?**

No Nonsense Phonics is a complete hard copy programme (plus USB stick) available direct from Raintree with additional hard copy resources available from Phonics International Ltd. Each No Nonsense Phonics Skills Starter Kit (Raintree) includes everything you need to get started. It includes:

- i. 9 No Nonsense Phonics Skills Pupil Books
- ii. 9 No Nonsense Phonics Skills Teacher Books
- iii. 6 A4 hard copy Tabletop Alphabetic Charts
- iv. USB stick with supplementary resources

Additional resources can be downloaded for free or purchased from Phonics International Ltd.

Product	Cost
No Nonsense Phonics Skills Starter Kit	£249.99 (+ VAT)
No Nonsense Phonics Skills Pupil Book 1 [Pack of 6]	£14.99 (+ VAT)
No Nonsense Phonics Skills Pupil Book 2 [Pack of 6]	£14.99 (+ VAT)
No Nonsense Phonics Skills Pupil Book 3 [Pack of 6]	£14.99 (+ VAT)
No Nonsense Phonics Skills Pupil Book 4 [Pack of 6]	£14.99 (+ VAT)
No Nonsense Phonics Skills Pupil Book 5 [Pack of 6]	£14.99 (+ VAT)
No Nonsense Phonics Skills Pupil Book 6 [Pack of 6]	£14.99 (+ VAT)
No Nonsense Phonics Skills Pupil Book 7 [Pack of 6]	£14.99 (+ VAT)
No Nonsense Phonics Skills Pupil Book 8 [Pack of 6]	£14.99 (+ VAT)
No Nonsense Phonics Skills Pupil Book 9 [Pack of 6]	£14.99 (+ VAT)
No Nonsense Phonics Skills English Alphabetic Code Chart - 6 Pack	£7.50 (+ VAT)
A4 Frieze Sheets – 1 Set (96 sheets)	£30 (+ VAT)
A5 Flash Cards (1 pack)	£25 (+ VAT)
Alphabet Tabletop Chart (A4 – pack 10)	£10 (+ VAT)
Giant Alphabetic Code Classroom Chart (Pull-Up or Hang-Down)	£58-£85 (+ VAT)
Mini Code Cards (Set 1 and Set 2 – sold together)	£18 (+ VAT)
Sound Mats (Set of 4)	£4 (+ VAT)
No Nonsense Phonics Skills Optional Pupil Book 2+ (Pack of 6)	£14.95 (+ VAT)
Phonics Home Study Pack	£6.95 (+ VAT)
Phonics Reading Books – Book 1 – Pack of 5	£12
Phonics Reading Books – Book 2 – Pack of 5	£12
Phonics Reading Books – Book 3 – Pack of 5	£12
Phonics Reading Books – Book 4 – Pack of 5	£12
Phonics Reading Books – Book 5 – Pack of 5	£12
Wand Phonics	£99 p/a
School Training Portal	

5. How is training paid for, e.g. one fee for all staff in the school or a fee for each member of staff?

- a. Free pre-recorded training sessions are available for No Nonsense Phonics Skills via Phonics International Ltd [here](#). It is recommended that each school watches and completes the 1 hour 15 minutes video with audio commentary.
- b. [Bespoke Zoom webinars](#) are also available from programme author, Debbie Hepplewhite. These bespoke sessions are for schools to provide Continuing Professional Development at a cost of £180 + VAT for one and a half hours.

6. What is the estimated total cost of the programme each year, including training and resources?

- a. The primary cost of the programme is the No Nonsense Phonics Skills Starter Kit. This is a one-off cost of **£249.99 (+ VAT)** and includes the teacher resources explaining how to use the programme, and six copies of each Pupil Book to get started.
- b. After which schools will need to buy ‘top-up’ Pupil Books for each pupil as required.

Training

- 1. What are the options for training, e.g. from a trainer visiting the school, by sending staff to a training venue, by webinar or by completing a course remotely? Are online training films available?**
 - a. Online training videos are available via Phonics International [here](#). It is recommended that each school watches and completes the 1 hour 15 minutes video with audio commentary.
 - b. As well as this, detailed Teacher Books are included in the programme which guides the practitioner through each Pupil Book.
 - c. [Bespoke Zoom webinars](#) are also available from programme author, Debbie Hepplewhite. These bespoke sessions are for schools to provide Continuing Professional Development at a cost of £180 + VAT for one and a half hours.
- 2. To what extent are schools supported following training? How is the initial training reinforced and updated?**
 - a. Bespoke Zoom training can be booked with Debbie.
- 3. What provision is made for teachers who are new to the school to access training individually?**
 - a. We would recommend that teachers new to the school review the free online training hosted on Phonics International [here](#). After this, we would then recommend they shadow a colleague who is comfortable using the programme.

Groupings

- 1. Does the programme recommend whole-class grouping or grouping according to children's reading progress?**
 - a. Organisation of the use of the programme depends on the circumstances of the school and the classes – including children's needs and staffing availability. Homogenous grouping is not recommended. There is great flexibility in the possibilities of delivery but whole class and larger grouping is recommended as much as practicable

Resources

- 1. How are resources provided, e.g. ready-made, to photocopy, to print from online, only with training?**
 - a. The No Nonsense Phonics resources are ready-made including the core NNPS Pupil Books and their parallel Teacher Books. The No Nonsense Phonics Skills additional USB stick can be printed and/or projected onto whiteboards as teachers prefer. Further supplemental paid and free resources can also be brought from [Phonics International](#) as optional extras.

2. **Are resources non-digital, digital (e.g. electronic whiteboard, online software application) or both?**
 - a. The main element of the programme is non-digital and comprises the physical Pupil Books designed for pupils to learn the letter/s-sound correspondences, practise all the core phonics sub-skills and sub-skills from code, to word, to text level for reading, writing, spelling, vocabulary enrichment and building up knowledge of spelling word banks, then take home to inform and share with parents and carers. The USB stick includes supplemental resources and an information and training video.
 - b. A further resource designed by author Debbie Hepplewhite to complement the use of No Nonsense Phonics is 'Wand Phonics' by Wand Education, currently being trialled, which is digital and interactive and perfect for complementary use in the home. Wand Phonics is available by annual licence for £99 pa.

3. **What does the programme provide for the teacher to use with children, e.g. letter cards, word cards, alphabetic code charts, other resources to display to support learning?**
 - a. The programme provides:
 - i. Individual Pupil Books from levels 1-9 (six copies of each are included in the No Nonsense Phonics Skills Starter Kit)
 - b. Alphabet Code Tabletop Charts (six copies of each are included in the No Nonsense Phonics Skills Starter Kit, additional copies can also be purchased in packs of six)
 - c. Entry point assessment
 - d. Printable Giant Alphabetic Code Charts
 - e. Ready-made Alphabetic Code Charts (mini and giant)
 - f. Giant printable Alphabet Poster with letter formation
 - g. Printable tabletop and ready-made Alphabet letter formation resources
 - h. Frieze Cards (printable and projectable),
 - i. Ready-made Flash Cards
 - j. Frieze Sheets
 - k. Mini Code Cards
 - l. Printable and ready-made Sounds Mats
 - m. A decodable set of Phonics Reading Books which are available in part and in development

4. **What does the programme provide for the children to practise and apply reading and writing words and sentences, e.g. plain texts, 'decodable' books, activity sheets, pupil books?**
 - a. All the necessary instruction, code and word level practice activities for reading, spelling and vocabulary enrichment, plus 'apply and extend' reading, writing and language comprehension activities via decodable 'mini stories', plus activities to build up knowledge of spelling word banks, are included in the Pupil Books – enabling ongoing formative assessment and end-of-book assessment.

- 5. What does the programme provide to support letter formation?**
 - a. Within each Pupil Book, children are encouraged to practise letter formation with capital and lower-case letter shapes from the outset. Writing is an integral part of the programme. This gets progressively more challenging with each level.

- 6. Are the resources especially suitable for young children or suitable for both young children and older pupils who have not yet mastered the early stages?**
 - a. Resources are suitable for both younger and older pupils.

Parents

- 1. Consider how the programme supports parents in helping their children to read at home, for example, through meetings and online support.**
 - a. The programme is perfect for supporting children to read at home as everything is included in the Pupil Books, which can be sent home each evening in pupils' book bags.