



Supporting reading at scale: what 1 million assessments reveal

Paul Charman

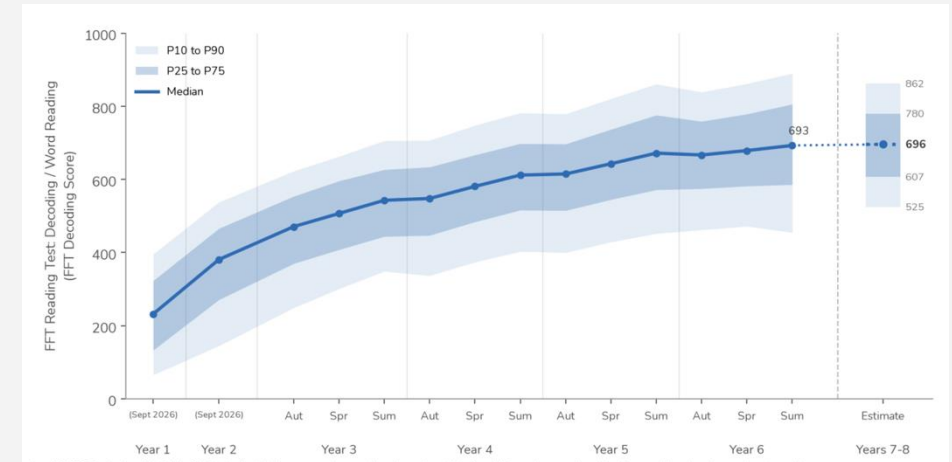
Managing Director, FFT

CST Annual Conference, October 2026



Focus for today's session

- Context: national reading data, policy and research evidence
- FFT's reading assessments: decoding, fluency and comprehension
- What does the data from 2.6m assessments tell us about reading and the links between decoding, fluency and reading comprehension?
- Struggling readers: targeted interventions and support
- How can trusts and schools improve reading?



2.6M

reading assessment
results

360,641

Pupils from
Reception to Year 9

2,261

schools since 2022

219

multi-academy trusts

FFT's assessment and reading expertise

Non-profit organisation, supporting:

10,000

schools

350

academy trusts

2,500

schools use our reading programmes

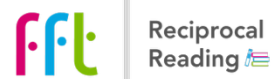
2.6m

reading assessment results

Primary schools



DFE validated
phonics programme



Reading
comprehension
intervention with
proven impact from
EEF trials



Reading catch-up
programme for
decoding and fluency
(current EEF trial)

Secondary schools



KS3 phonics
intervention and
assessment
developed with Little
Wandle and Harper
Collins



CPD for all
secondary schools,
delivered in
partnership with the
DfE for 2025/26

All schools

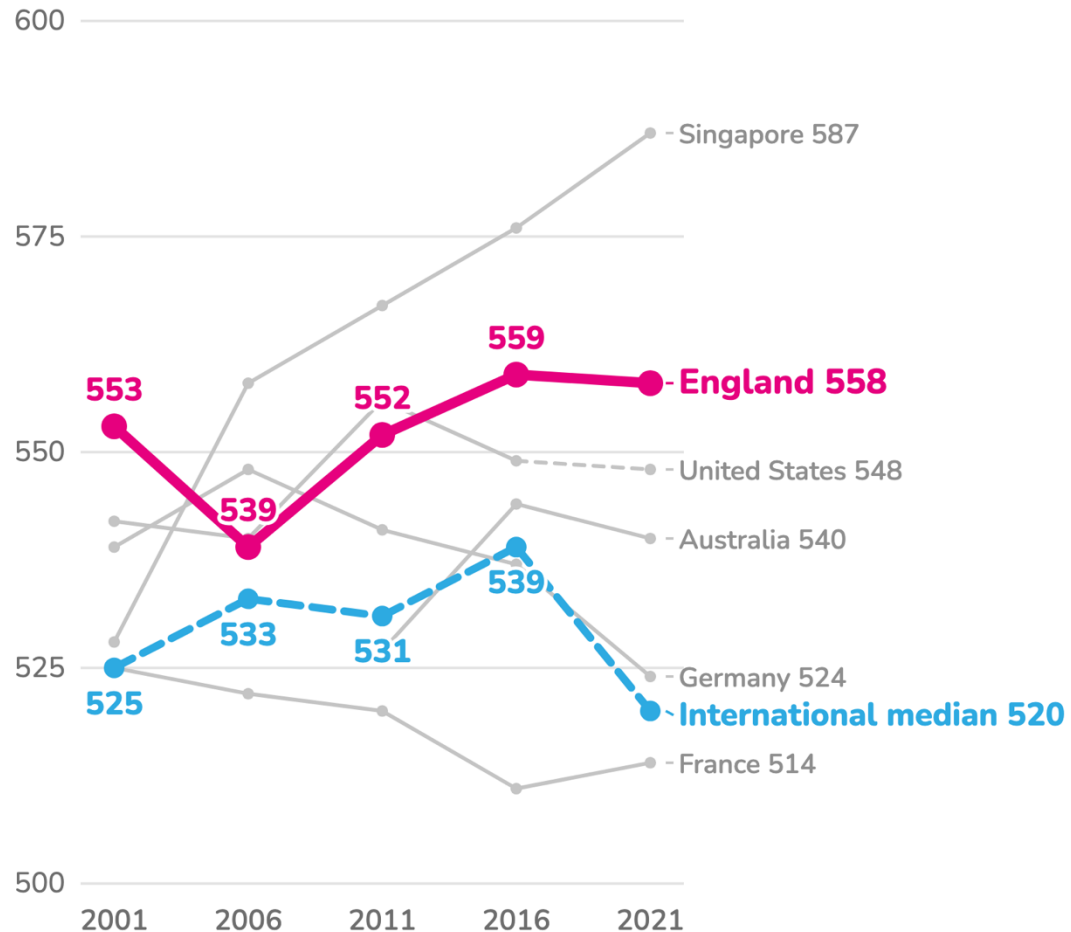


Online adaptive
assessments to
assess reading skills
and identify
struggling readers

Reading: England's performance in international studies

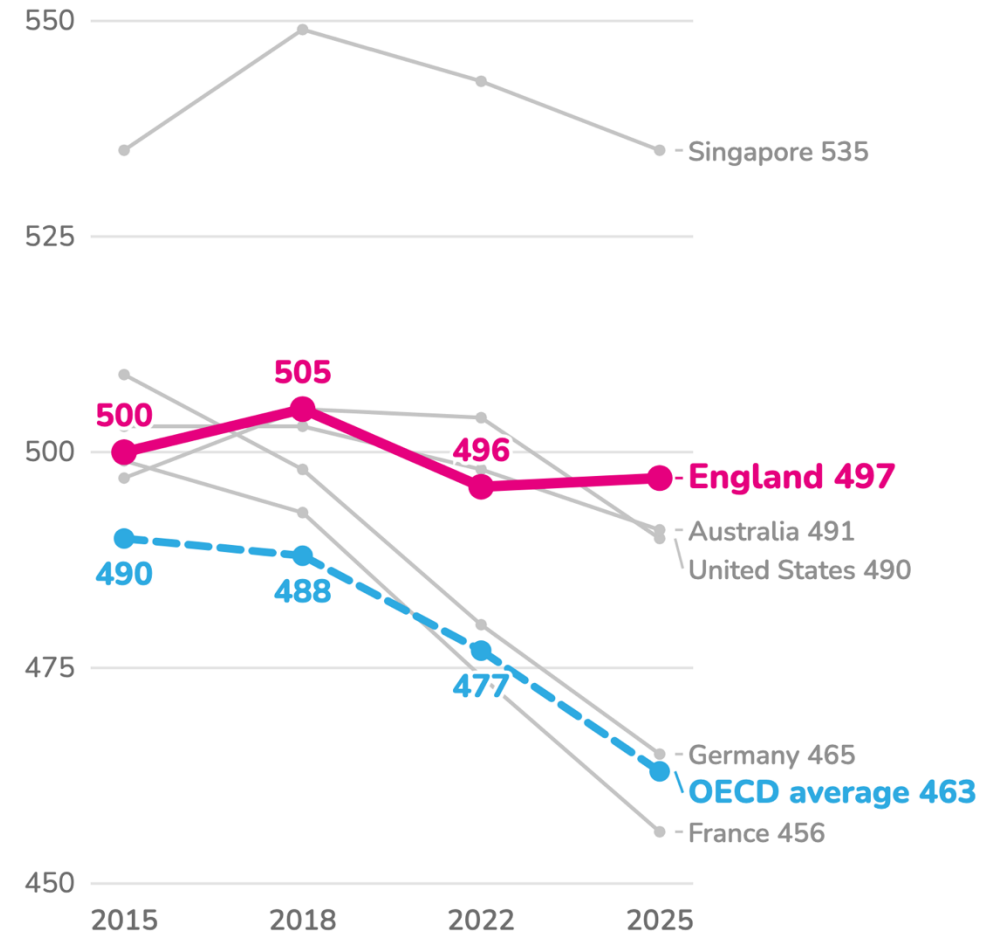
PIRLS: Year 5 (age 9–10)

Average score · of those shown, only Singapore is significantly higher



PISA: age 15

Average score · of those shown, only Singapore is significantly higher



Struggling readers: at the end of KS2 and the start of Year 7

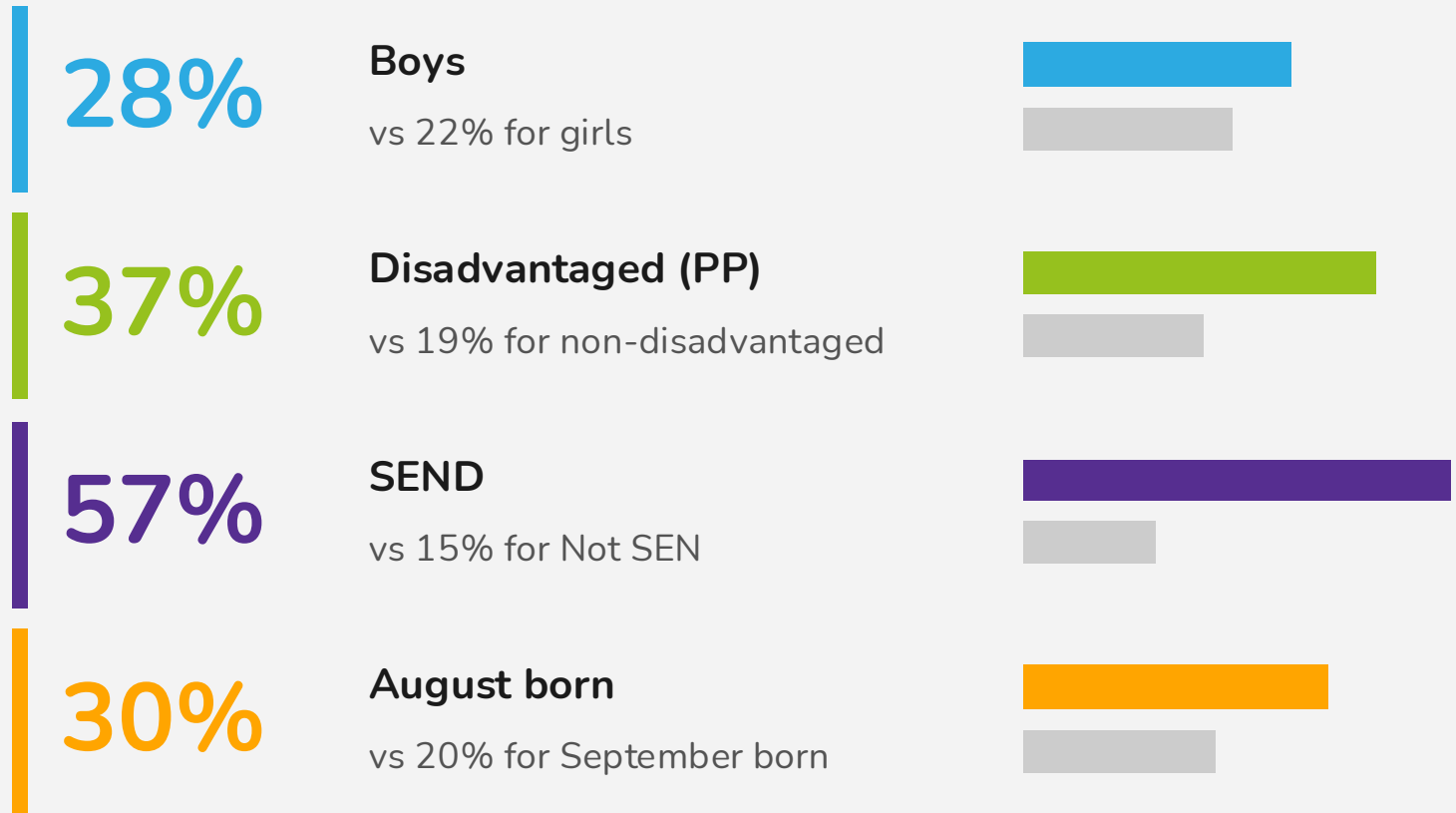


25%

of Year 7 pupils arrive at secondary school below the expected standard for reading

DFE KS2 Attainment (Sept 2026)

How the gap varies by group:



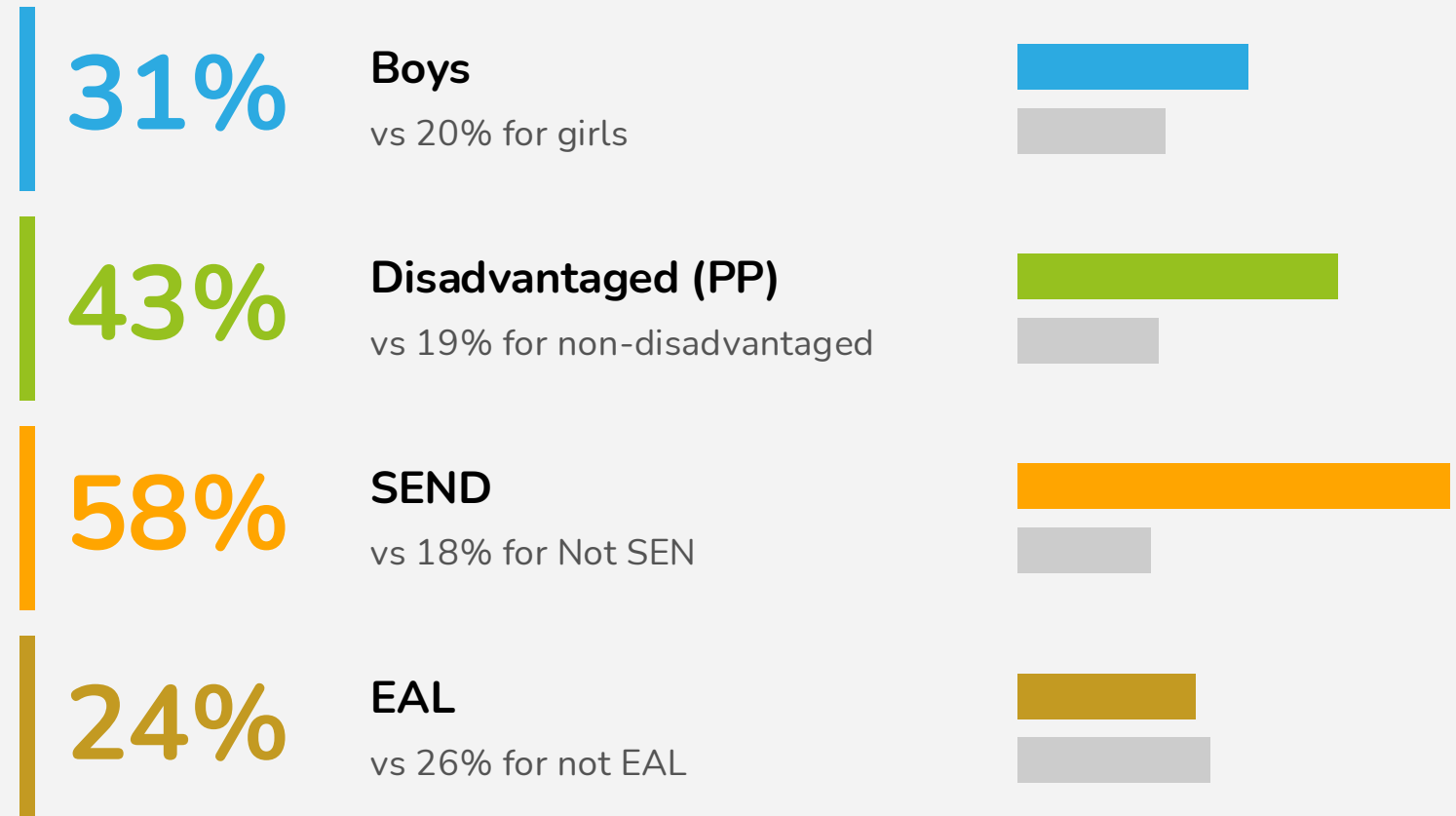
Struggling readers: at the end of KS4 and GCSE outcomes

26%

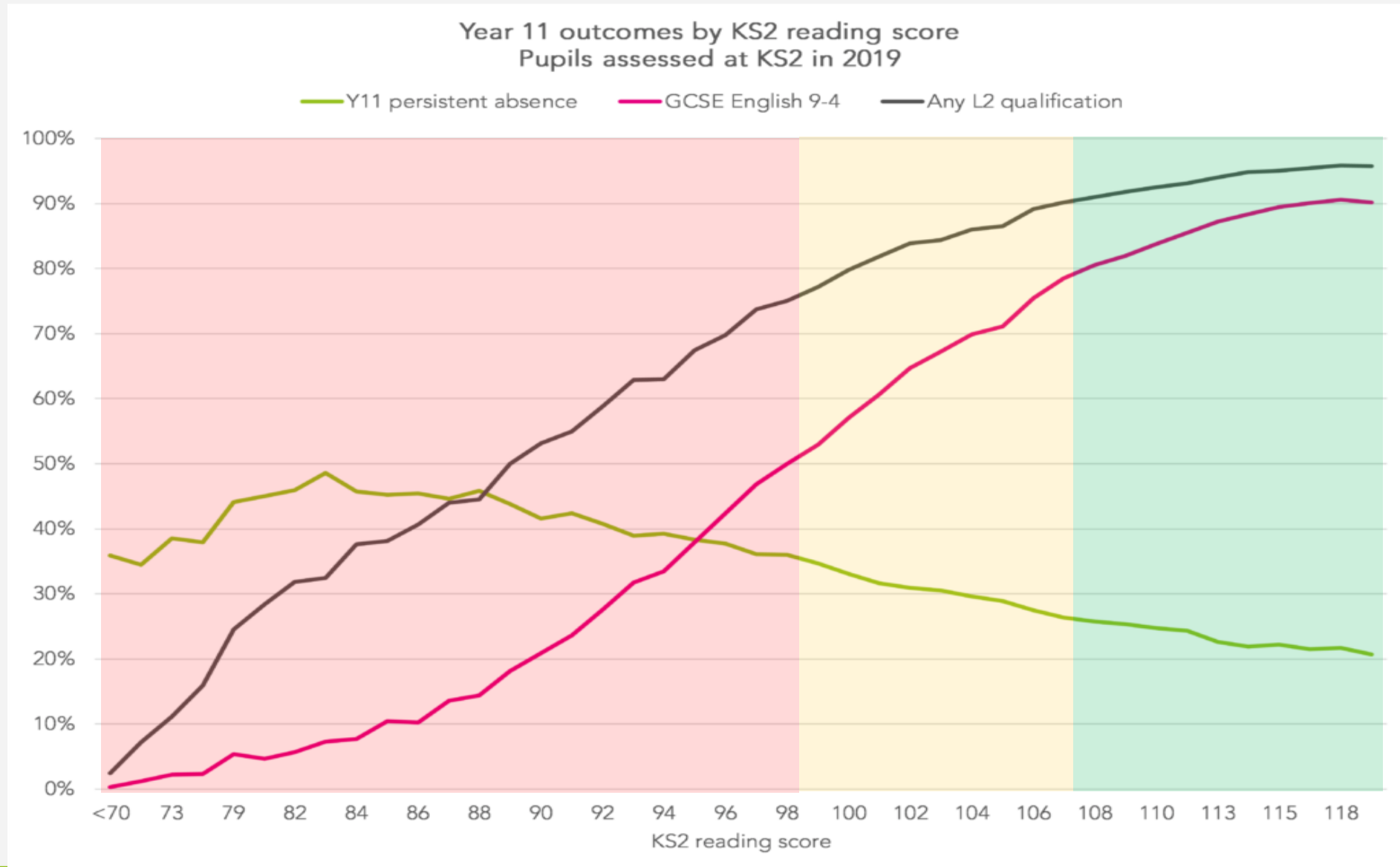
of Year 11 pupils finish secondary school without a grade 4 in GCSE English

DfE KS4 performance 2025/26
(provisional)

How the gap varies by group:

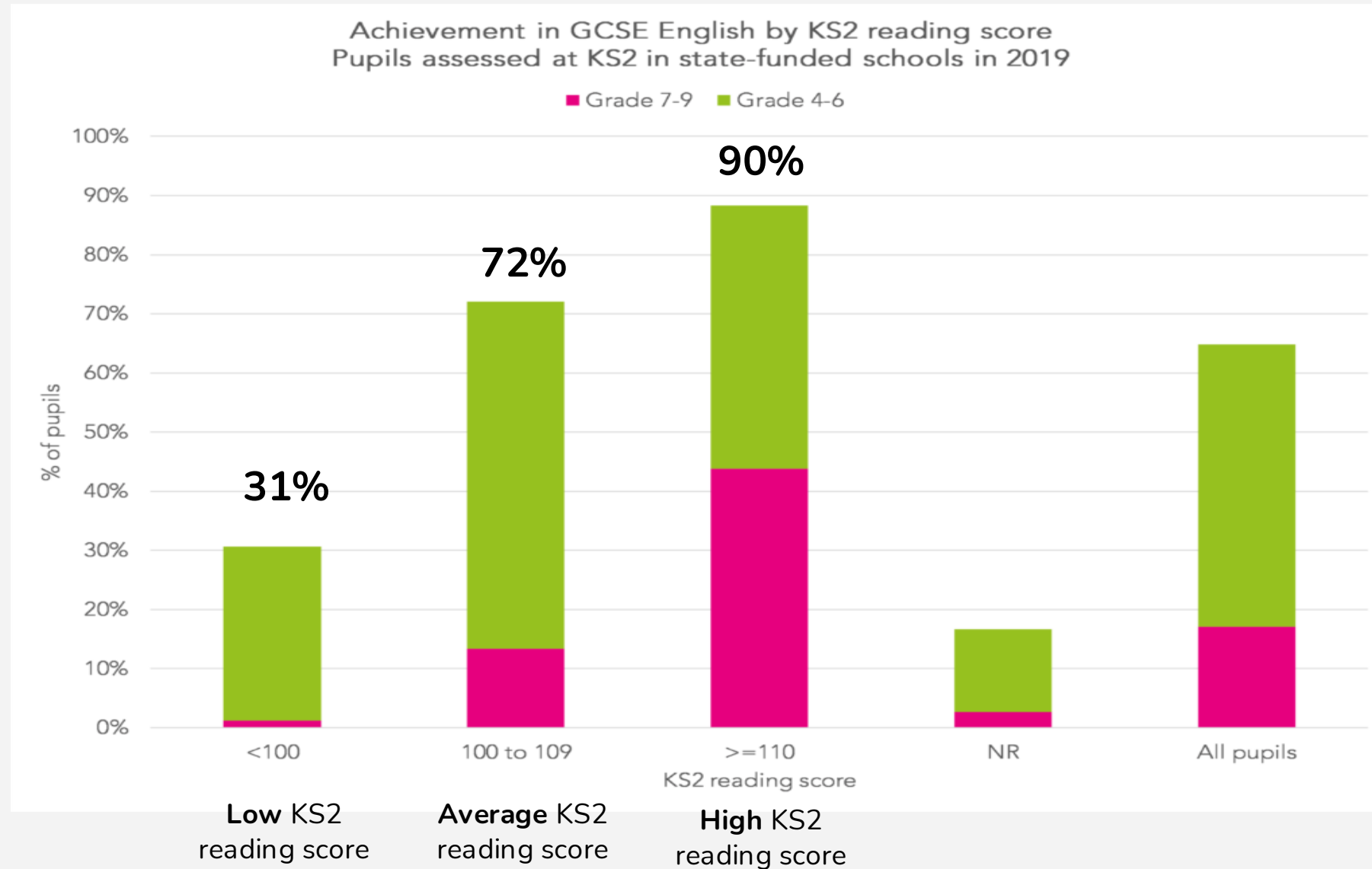


KS2 reading and KS4 education outcomes



GCSE outcomes improve with higher KS2 reading scores

GCSE English outcomes and KS2 reading



DFE Year 8 Reading Test

Focus

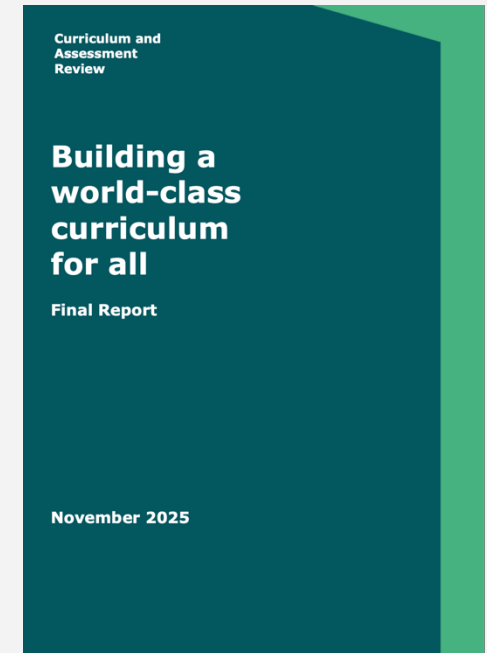
Reading comprehension and fluency

Start date

2028/29 (Year 7s starting Sept 2027)

Data use

Shared with DfE/Ofsted; not in performance tables



What schools and trusts should consider



Use KS2 reading data

Make best use of incoming KS2 reading data



Year 7 screening

Baseline and identify any struggling readers



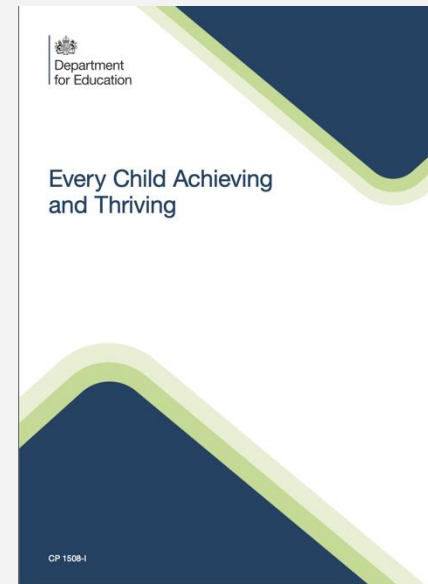
Diagnostic assessment

Understand the specific reading needs of struggling readers

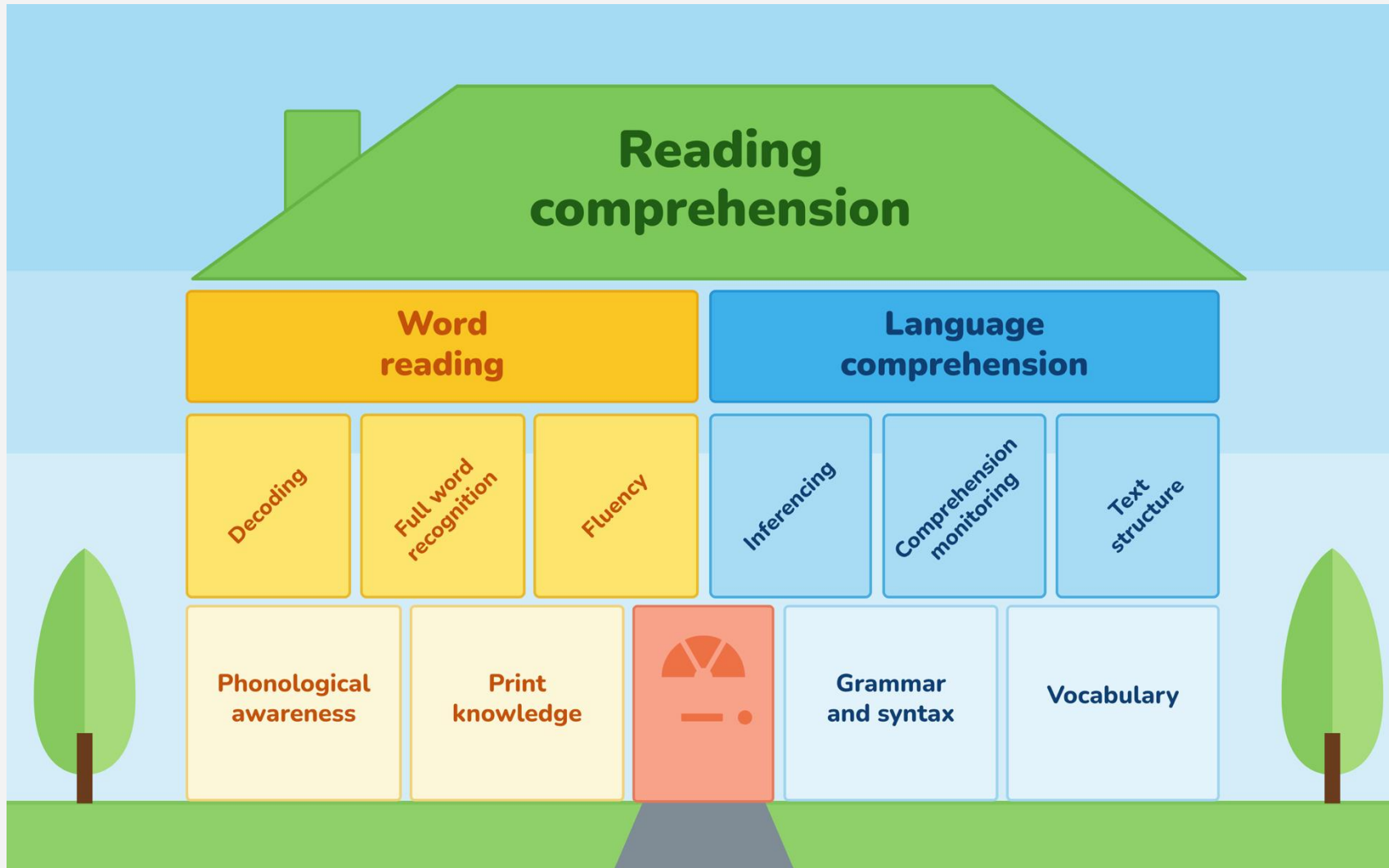


Monitor progress

Reassess all pupils later Year 7 or early Year 8 to track reading progress



Assessment and the Science of Reading



KS1: word reading is the main focus: phonics, decoding and fluency

KS2: shift from word reading to comprehension and fluency

KS3: mostly comprehension

For struggling readers in KS2 and KS3, schools should assess:

- Reading comprehension
- Reading fluency
- Word reading / decoding

The background features three large, overlapping circles: a green one on the left, a blue one on the top right, and a pink one on the bottom right. A white dotted line starts at the bottom left, curves upwards and to the right, passing through the green circle, then continues to curve upwards and to the right, passing through the blue circle, and finally curves downwards and to the right, passing through the pink circle.

FFT's Reading Assessments

FFT's reading assessments for schools & trusts

Reading skills assessed in the FFT Reading Test

Comprehension

Year: Year 7 Class: 7A

1 Sentence Completion 2 Vocabulary in Context 3 Passage Gap Completion 4 Short Passage Comprehension 5 Long Passage Comprehension

Choose the word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

Maria was so _____ with her revision that she finished all her notes a full week before the exam.

☐ careless

☐ diligent

☐ anxious

☐ bored

Sentence Completion - Question 1 of 3

Next

Decoding

fft Reading Assessment Programme

Name: Abdiel Bogaski Year: Year 6 Class: 6B Assessment: Adaptive

1 Decoding 2 Reading

physician

Got it 1 Not yet 2

Fluency

fft Reading Assessment Programme

Name: Abdiel Bogaski Year: Year 6 Class: 6B Assessment: Adaptive

1 Decoding 2 Reading

One hundred years ago if you wanted to travel across the ocean you needed to go by ship. In 1912, Titanic was the biggest passenger ship in the world. In fact, it was more like a floating hotel than a ship. There were dining rooms, cafes and even a swimming pool!

+

-

On the 10th of April, 1912, Titanic left from England on its first ever trip. It carried 2200 people across the Atlantic Ocean towards New York. The ship had lots of safety features, and some people even said it was unsinkable. But very sadly, that turned out not to be true.

Next

- **Years 1 to 9:** covers KS1 to KS3
- **Online and adaptive:** no marking, instant reports
- **Comprehension:** whole class in a computer room (40 mins)
- **Decoding and fluency:** 1:1 with a teacher or TA (5–10 mins)

2.6m results from 2,261 schools since 2022

2.6m

results across
decoding, fluency and
comprehension

360,641

pupils assessed,
Reception to Year 9

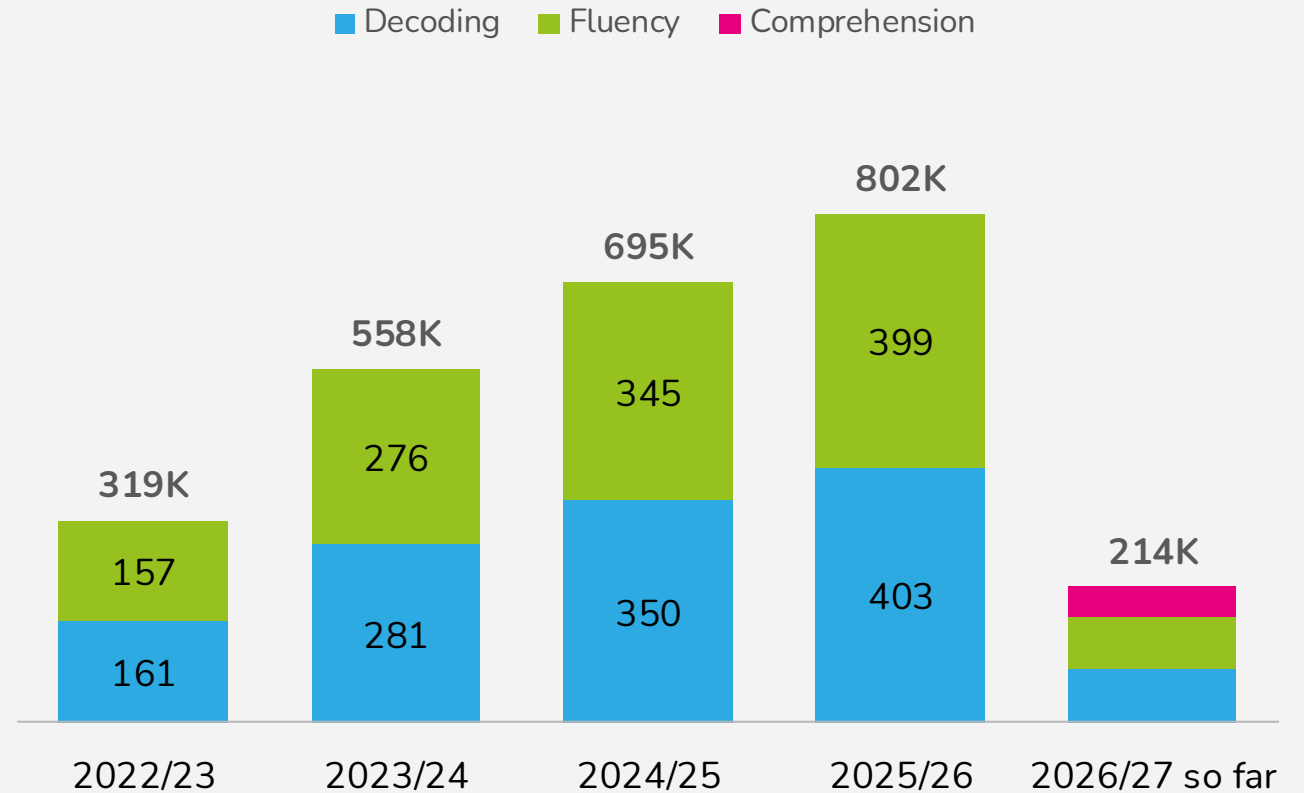
2,261

schools, Sept 2022 to
Oct 2026

219

multi-academy trusts
with 2+ schools tested

Results by assessment type each academic year, thousands



Comprehension assessment launched in 2026/27. 2026/27 covers 1 September to 15 October 2026. Source: FFT RAP and CODE data, extracted 15 October 2026.

Reading assessment results since 2022

Results by year group and academic year

Year group	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 (*)	Total
Reception	54,721	91,882	90,943	86,250	3,288	327,084
Year 1	76,951	103,128	105,731	103,305	12,687	401,802
Year 2	55,839	81,535	100,217	105,286	18,534	361,411
Year 3	39,437	83,284	110,791	137,751	30,027	401,290
Year 4	31,801	73,008	109,118	133,088	28,132	375,147
Year 5	28,074	68,210	99,122	120,640	27,208	343,254
Year 6	30,775	53,951	76,508	92,106	28,022	281,362
Year 7	606	1,166	1,586	14,660	41,379	59,397
Year 8	385	728	863	5,907	16,565	24,448
Year 9	218	649	358	3,042	8,114	12,381
Total	318,807	557,541	695,237	802,035	213,956	2,587,576

FFT Reading Test: decoding & fluency

 Reading 
Assessment Programme

Home Assess Reports Resources My School Groups

Whitborn Academy (1301...

Your Assessments

Year Group	Pupils	Pupils Assessed	Assessments Completed
Year R	60	2	2
Year 1	57	2	5
Year 2	59	4	4
Year 3	55	3	4
Year 4	55	0 	0
Year 5	88	3	6
Year 6	60	2	3

MIS Connected

Actions

Start assessment

Starts a new assessment for a pupil.

View reports

See reports for your assessed pupils.

About

Reading Assessment Programme helps schools to assess pupils' reading skills. [Learn more](#) or see [full guidance](#).

Support

Access support resources and on-demand training videos in our Resources Tab.

Resources

For any queries or support, contact our team at:
literacysupport@fft.org.uk
01446 776262 (option 5)

You can also visit the [Knowledge Hub](#) to post questions in a discussion and learn from FFT literacy advisors.

Important Updates

- **New for 2026/27: FFT Reading Test: Comprehension**
We are pleased to announce our new adaptive comprehension assessment for Years 2 – 8. It can be found in the assessment drop-down menu under: **2. FFT Reading Test: Comprehension**.

This is a whole class assessment that is launched by the assessor via the School Staff login. Pupils can use their unique 8 digit access codes to login and start the test.

The assessment lasts approximately 30 – 40 mins and covers word meaning, sentence comprehension, and passage level comprehension targeting a wide range of reading sub-domains (e.g. retrieval, inference, summarisation, authorial viewpoint, purpose and structure, etc.). Full Reports and scores are available immediately after completing the test.
- Please refer to the **Resources Tab** for further guidance and on-demand training video.
- **The FFT Reading Test: Decoding & Fluency** has been extended into Years 7 & 8 with a new KS3 item bank. This is a one-to-one assessment that you can do with your Year 7 & 8 pupils to test their decoding and fluency ability.
- **Assessment names and order have been updated** – please ensure you have selected the correct assessment for your pupils.

FFT Reading Assessment: comprehension



Start Assessment

Year Group:

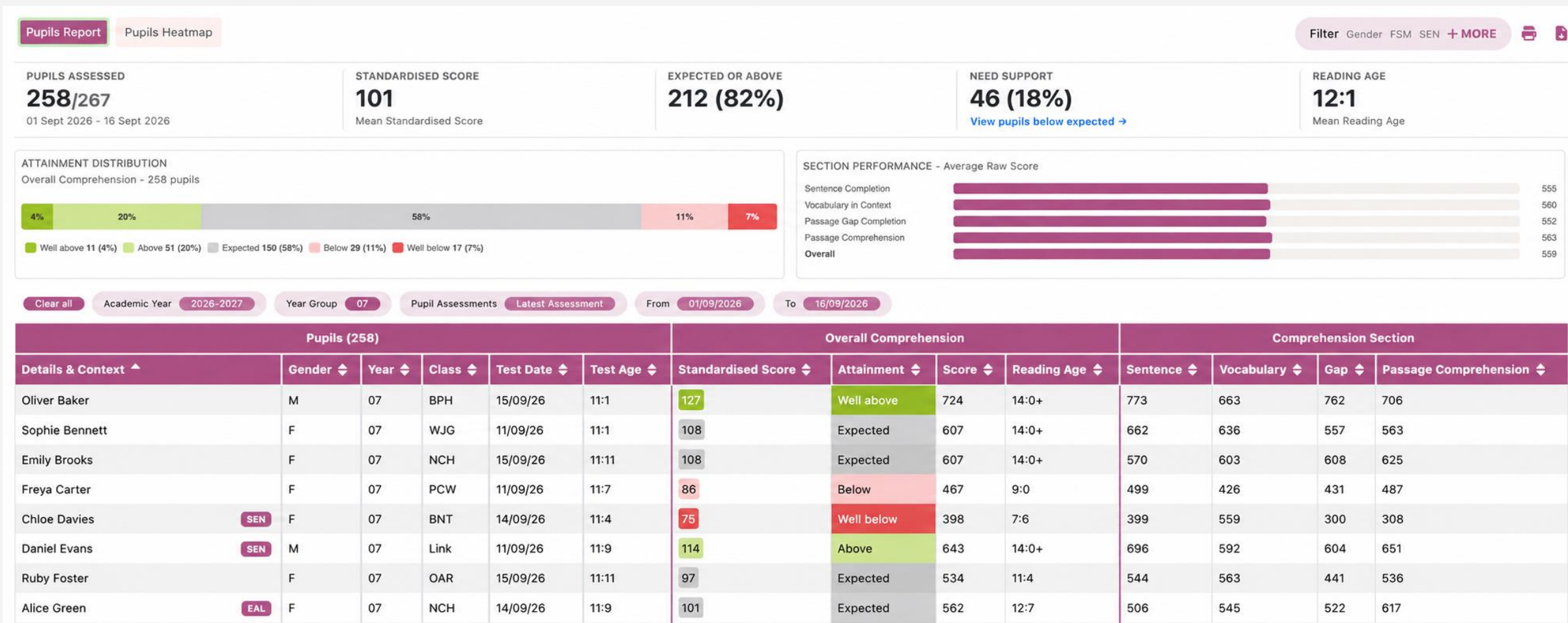
Start

Welcome to the FFT Reading Test - Comprehension Demo!

Please use this demo assessment with your class to become familiar with the test structure and question format.

Questions are for illustrative purposes only. Item level adaptivity and pupil routing are not enabled.

Pupils report: comprehension



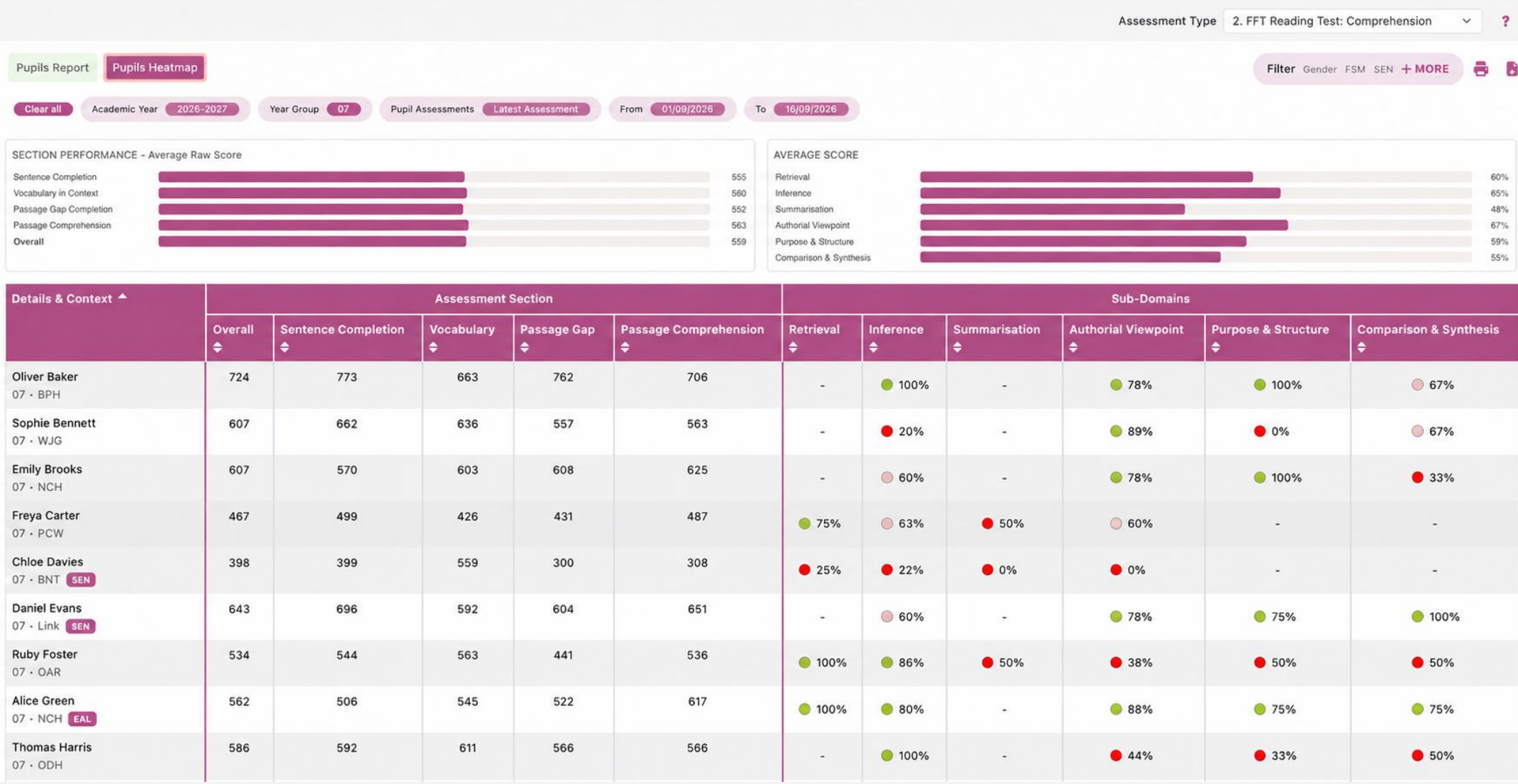
Pupils report: decoding & fluency

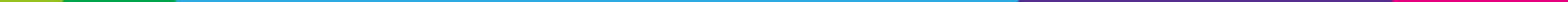


Assessment Type 1. FFT Reading Test: Decoding & Fluency ?

Year Group	Class	Pupils	Pupil Progress	Pupil Summary	Pupils Heatmap	Pupil Heatmap	Filter Gender FSM SEN + MORE														
Clear all		Academic Year		2026-2027		Year Group		7		Pupil Assessments		Latest Assessment		From		01/09/2026		To		16/09/2026	
Pupils (113)						Assessment Indicators ⚙															
						Decoding				Fluency				Combined							
Details & Context ▲	Gender ⬆	Year ⬆	Class ⬆	Test Date ⬆	Test Age ⬆	Standardised Score ⬆	Reading Attainment ⬆	Score ⬆	Reading Age ⬆	Standardised Score ⬆	Reading Attainment ⬆	Score (WCPM) ⬆	Reading Age ⬆	Standardised Score ⬆	Reading Attainment ⬆						
Sophie Bennett	F	7	CRC	14/09/26	11:2	76	Well below	408	6:3	79	Well below	78	7:4	76	Well below						
Chloe Hartley	F	7	ALC	14/09/26	11:1	102	Expected	690	11:3	89	Below	104	8:9	95	Expected						
Ethan Brooks	M	7	LRC	15/09/26	11:5	89	Below	548	8:9	102	Expected	139	11:0	95	Expected						
Lucy Fletcher	F	7	LLC	14/09/26	11:7	119	Above	876	13:6	113	Above	170	13:2	117	Above						
Grace Collins	F	7	SRC	14/09/26	11:5	112	Above	794	13:6	117	Above	182	13:6	115	Above						
Freya Dawson	F	7	LLC	15/09/26	11:3	102	Expected	684	11:1	123	Well above	198	13:6	113	Above						
Oscar Reed	M	7	CLC	14/09/26	11:10	70	Well below	333	5:9	70	Well below	51	6:3	68	Well below						
Isla Whitfield	F	7	CLC	14/09/26	11:10	105	Expected	718	11:11	101	Expected	136	10:9	103	Expected						
Maya Ellis	F	7	SRC	14/09/26	11:5	101	Expected	677	10:11	108	Expected	157	12:3	105	Expected						
Noah Turner	M	7	CRC	15/09/26	11:10	105	Expected	725	12:1	113	Above	171	13:2	110	Above						
Leo Mitchell	M	7	LLC	15/09/26	11:9	106	Expected	729	12:3	107	Expected	153	11:11	107	Expected						
Thomas Hayes	M	7	SLC	15/09/26	11:3	110	Above	773	13:6	120	Well above	190	13:6	116	Above						

Pupil heatmap: comprehension





Detailed diagnostic information



Name: Calvin Atrian

DOB: 12/07/17

Age (at time of assessment): 9:3

Year: Year 5

Class: 5A

Assessment: Adaptive

Date: 16 October 2026

Decoding Standardised Score: 95

Decoding Reading Attainment: Expected

Decoding Reading Age: 9:0

Fluency Score (WCPM): 136

Fluency Standardised Score: 105

Fluency Reading Attainment: Expected

Fluency Reading Age: 10:9

Decoding	
Assessed Words	physical, bruise, guilty X, poisonous, unbalanced, operate X, assistant, programme, immediately, cell, device X, recognise, description, phoney X, cinema, exposure, manufacture, investigation, motion, latest X, hazy, actual, ceiling, funnel X, pavement, taunt, fragment, cabinet, patient, echoes, decision, autobiography X, sacrifice, connection, campaign, reptile, invincible X, accompany, instantly, major, configuration, tough, fever, circulation, functional, rustic, stabilise, contextual X, amateur, mandatory, heroic, exploit, widespread X, reference, remedy, opposition, cultural, zenith X, felony, equation

Reading Fluency	
WCPM	139
Reading accuracy	98 %
Passage length	177
Words read	124
Number of words read correctly	122
Number of words read incorrectly	2
Time	60 seconds
Words read incorrectly	asteroids, pluto
Fluency Passage ^	
The solar system is made up of the Sun, the eight planets, their moons and millions of asteroids X and comets. It is the place in the universe that we call home. Our solar system is just one of thousands of other systems in the Milky Way galaxy. The Sun is close to the centre of the solar system. Everything in the solar system rotates around it in orbit. The Sun provides heat and light for the entire system. Objects that are very close to the Sun, like the planet Mercury, are so hot that nothing can live there. Others, like the dwarf planet Pluto, X are so far away that their surfaces are icy and dark. The first four planets in the Solar System: Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars all have rocky surfaces and are fairly small in size. The next four planets: Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are called gas giants because they are made up of various gases instead of solid rock. They are also much bigger than the first four planets and have ring systems.	
Reading Fluency	
WCPM	133
Reading accuracy	98 %
Passage length	164

Trust-level reporting

Assessment Type

1. FFT Reading Test: Decoding & Fluency ▾



School ▲	Pupils ▲	Pupils With Assessments ▲	Responses ▲	Standardised Score ▲	Reading Attainment (Exp+) ▲	Reading Attainment (Above+) ▲
Aldermoor Academy (3046112)	1210	1148	1172	101.4	71%	24%
Ashcombe Primary Academy (2131045)	412	398	405	99.2	66%	19%
Beckford Primary Academy (8512077)	468	451	462	103.8	76%	29%
Birchwood Primary Academy (2052118)	174	168	170	97.1	61%	15%
Bramley Fields Primary Academy (8452039)	605	579	594	100.6	69%	22%
Calder Vale Academy (3064021)	0	0	0	-	-	-
Carrow Primary Academy (2072014)	162	157	160	105.2	79%	33%
Chantry Park Primary School (3842056)	218	206	211	96.4	58%	14%
Clearwater Primary Academy (3072019)	389	377	384	102.7	74%	27%

National reading
benchmarks:
decoding and fluency

Decoding assessments: Year 7 students

1

foreground X, collection X, fluent X, supervision X,
calculation X, subheading X, secondary X,
appointment X, importance X, disappoint X,
compound X, overwhelm X, discomfort X,
mentally X, boundary X, cat, pat, run, mum, hot,
sit X, jam, lot, yes, bee, zoom X, chop X, happy,
food, shop X, chat X, joy X, boy, toy X, start X,
girl, corn X, match X, horn X, bird X, hatch X,
her X, name, cake X, switch X, time, under X,
bunny X, new X, bike X, funny, winter X, sat X

Score: 104 (SS 70 / RA 4:9)

2

brilliance, imaginary, lonesome, rectangular, excite,
investment, academic X, dialogue, earnest, unsociable,
esteem, rancid, punctual, sympathy, quench, aromatic,
contradict, relative, exaggeration, physiotherapy X,
recede, procedure X, exquisite, quotation X,
antiseptic, cooperation X, compromise X, yacht,
accumulate, recoup X, algorithm X, scenario X,
southern, dilemma X, medieval, origin, impermanent,
hindrance, squadron, molecule, dissatisfied, abide,
composition, astounded, reestablish, aquatic,
unattainable X, logistics, resplendent, articulate,
specimen X, completion X, prophet X, disengage,
obedient, shire, restoration, essentially, query,

Score: 651 (SS 98 / RA 10:4)

3

dialogue X, romance, garbage, anxious, practical,
lonesome, taunt X, enquire X, safari, outrageous,
humming, unpredictable, plummet, hilarious, navigator,
nephew, reptile X, pupil X, majestic X, provide,
obeyed X, repeated X, licence, comfortable,
historical X, supply X, piles, centre, category,
opposite, feeble, generation X, shady, function,
principle, phrase X, dough, influence, population,
alphabet, begun, wheeze, familiar, abandon, pavement,
suggested, memorable, slimy X, document, desert,
material X, exactly, aquarium X, general X,
awkward, example, actual, latest, impulsive, vicious X

Score: 491 (SS 84 / RA 7:11)

4

genius X, completely X, fluent X, supervision X,
calculation X, subheading X, secondary X,
appointment X, importance X, overwhelm X,
disappoint X, compound X, discomfort X,
mentally X, boundary X, cat, pat X, run, tap, cup,
him X, jam X, hill X, yes, mat X

Score: 10 (SS 70 / RA 4:3)

5

identification, impractical, configuration X,
commence X, exhale X, furnish, anxious,
manufacture, hyperactive, muscular, chemistry,
dignity X, construction, devoid X, centuries X,
symbol, security, qualified, identity, motion, brief, dairy,
average X, adorably, considerable, suspicion, structure,
disgrace, concert, enable, represent, presence,
destructive, definition, incident X, entire, evident,
neutral, monitoring, denied X, portion X, accompany,
assure, fibre, production, consider X, tough, fulfil X,
musician X, tongue, destination, tribute, yield X,

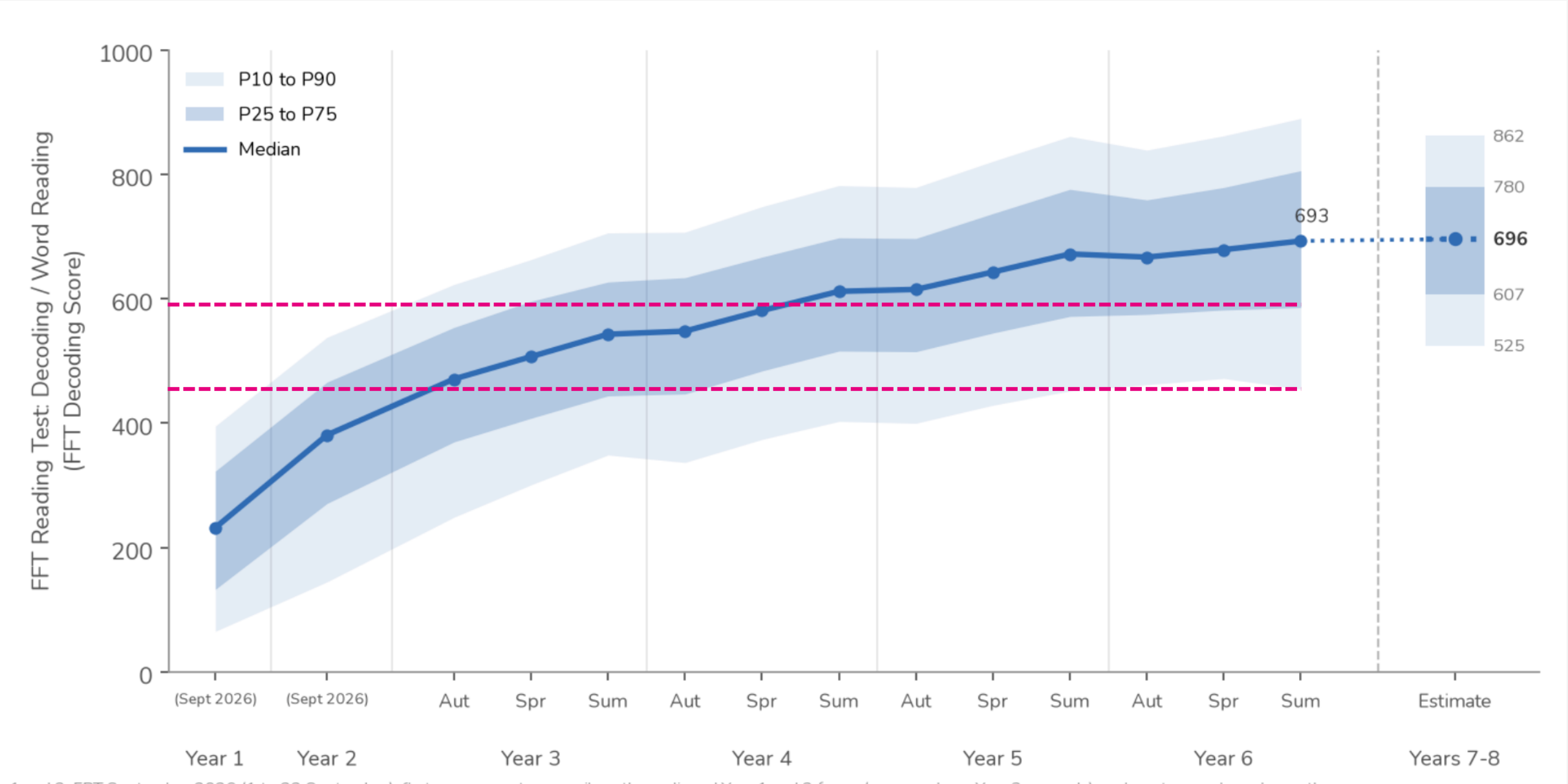
Score: 527 (SS 87 / RA 8:5)

6

hemisphere, substandard, investment, stationary,
exclusion, perspective, automatically, probability,
finance, dehydration, identification, concentration,
geometry, logical, dominant, constitution, institution,
magnanimous, tumultuous X, austere, congenial,
pseudonym X, pharmaceutical X, vivacious,
psychiatrist X, alias X, repugnant, archive X,
miscellaneous, authoritarian X, gregarious X,
colloquial X, judicious, lieutenant, instantaneous X,
lacerate, monotony, bilingual X, conduit, reprisal,
myriad X, jeopardy, depot, periphery, notoriety X,
coincide X, oscillate, fibrous, physician X, silhouette,
sovereign X, voracious X, equilibrium, precarious,
picturesque X, schematic, subsidiary, hypocrite X,

Score: 782 (SS 111 / RA 13:6)

FFT Reading Test: decoding benchmark scores



Struggling reader in Year 5



Decoding	
Assessed Words	equip, pour, tremble X, guessed, independence, passage, programme, bruise X, poisonous, cinema, immediately, recognise, description, phoney, professional, resource X, abandon X, brute X, through, energetic X, careless, genius X, furnish X, raisin X, design, sauce, mucky X, heart, generate X, boycott, positive X, fudge, gentle, announce, profession X, yeast X, ahead, jewel, garbage X, profit X, respectable X, raise, comic, overconfident X, wove, cereal, whimper, employment, romance, matchless, spiteful, refused, measure, written, spread, navy, overseas, breathe, disconnect, practise

Age (at time of assessment): 9:8

Year: 5

Date: 10 September 2026

Decoding Standardised Score: 83

Decoding Reading Attainment: Below

Decoding Reading Age: 6:6

Fluency Score (WCPM): 44

Fluency Standardised Score: 71

Fluency Reading Attainment: Well below

Fluency Reading Age: 6:0

Reading Fluency	
WCPM	50
Fluency Passage	(ID: 500) ^
Last spring I helped Grandma dig a garden in our yard. First, we picked a flat, sunny patch X of grass. Next, we got rid of all the weeds and rocks in the area. Then we put up wood posts to fence the garden off. I used a hammer to drive the posts into the ground. Finally, we added layers of soil and compost. It was then time to plant the seeds. We dug holes in the earth and dropped them in. We planted beans, tomatoes and pumpkins. We also planted some sunflower seeds at the far end of the garden. Sunflowers are Grandma's favourite. She said that new plants need lots of care, so I watered them with a can every day after school. At first nothing happened. Soon, little green shoots began to stick out of the soil. The plants were growing!	

Reading Fluency	
WCPM	38
Fluency Passage	(ID: 508) ^
A rainforest X is a type of forest with tall trees and lots of rainfall. Rainforests can be found all over the world except X where it is very cold. The biggest rainforests are in South America and Africa. X These rainforests are warm and wet all year round. They are home to animals such as monkeys, snakes, lizards, spiders and frogs. Some people even call the rainforest home! Rainforests are important for our planet. More than half of the world's plants and animals can be found in rainforests. Many of the medicines and products that we use were first found in a rainforest. Today, rainforests around the world are in danger. Each year, rainforests shrink as trees are cut down to make space for farming and building roads and houses. The plants and animals that call these forests home are at risk of dying. People are trying to save rainforests by creating laws that protect them.	

Year 5 pupil at the expected standard



Decoding	
Assessed Words	approved, transferred, immediately, guilty, principle, attached, sensitive, general, education, cellar, familiar, opportunity, considerable, medication, vicious, biodegradable X, tyrant, completion, odour X, preoccupied, pincer, solemn, persuasion, literature, orchid, cohesion X, debris, physiotherapy, estuary, ogre, electorate, magistrate, rigorous, ambidextrous X, conceit, idyllic, culmination, ravine, irrational, abolition, subsidiary X, compliance, rationale X, adequate, severe, humanitarian X, percussion X, suite X, abrasive, procure X, diplomacy, identifiable X, negotiable X, eloquent, scrounge, protagonist, frivolous, auditorium X, detrimental X, coexistence

Age (at time of assessment): 9:8

Year: 5

Date: 14 September 2026

Decoding Standardised Score: 109

Decoding Reading Attainment: Expected

Decoding Reading Age: 11:6+

Fluency Score (WCPM): 144

Fluency Standardised Score: 108

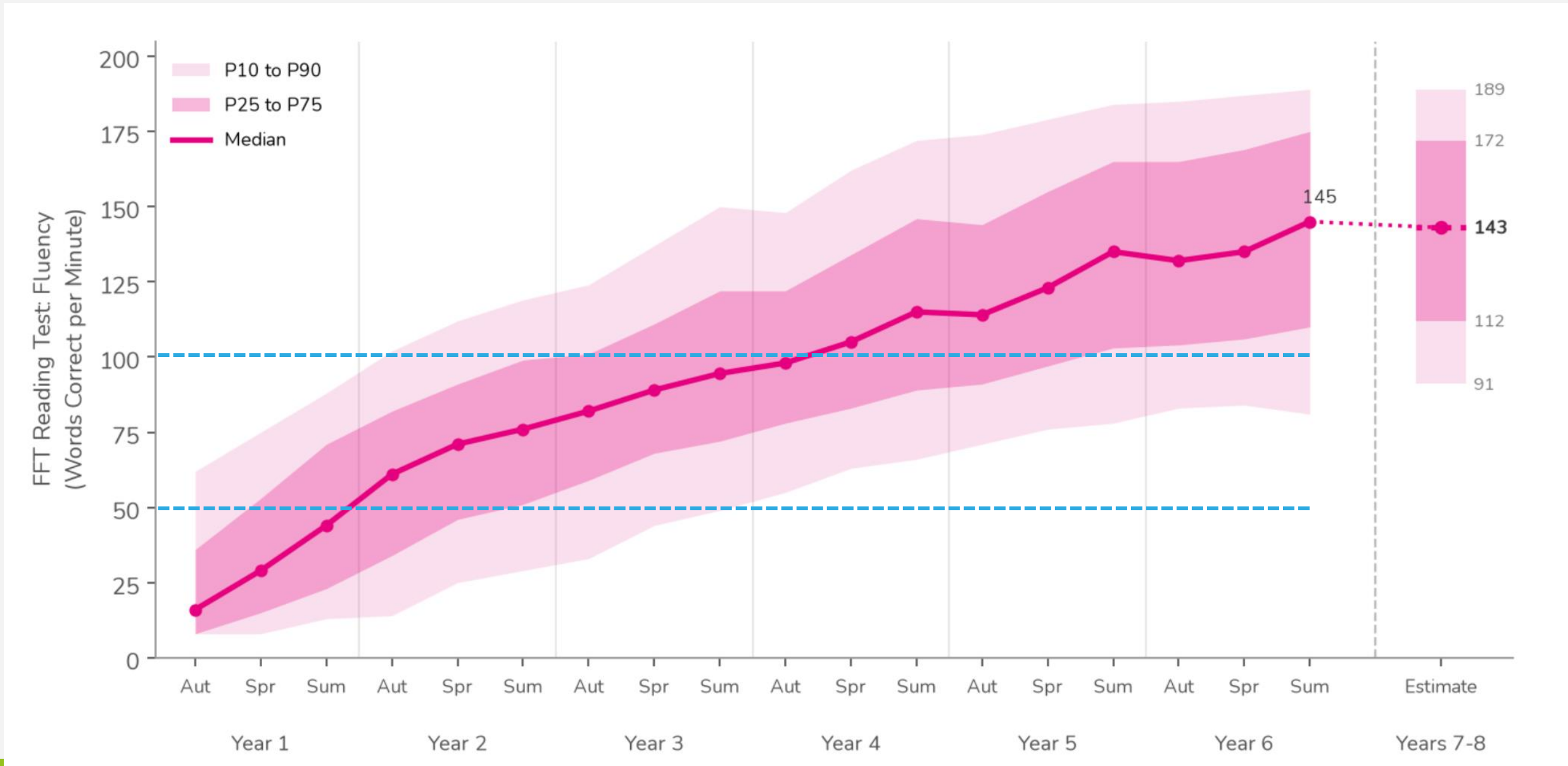
Fluency Reading Attainment: Expected

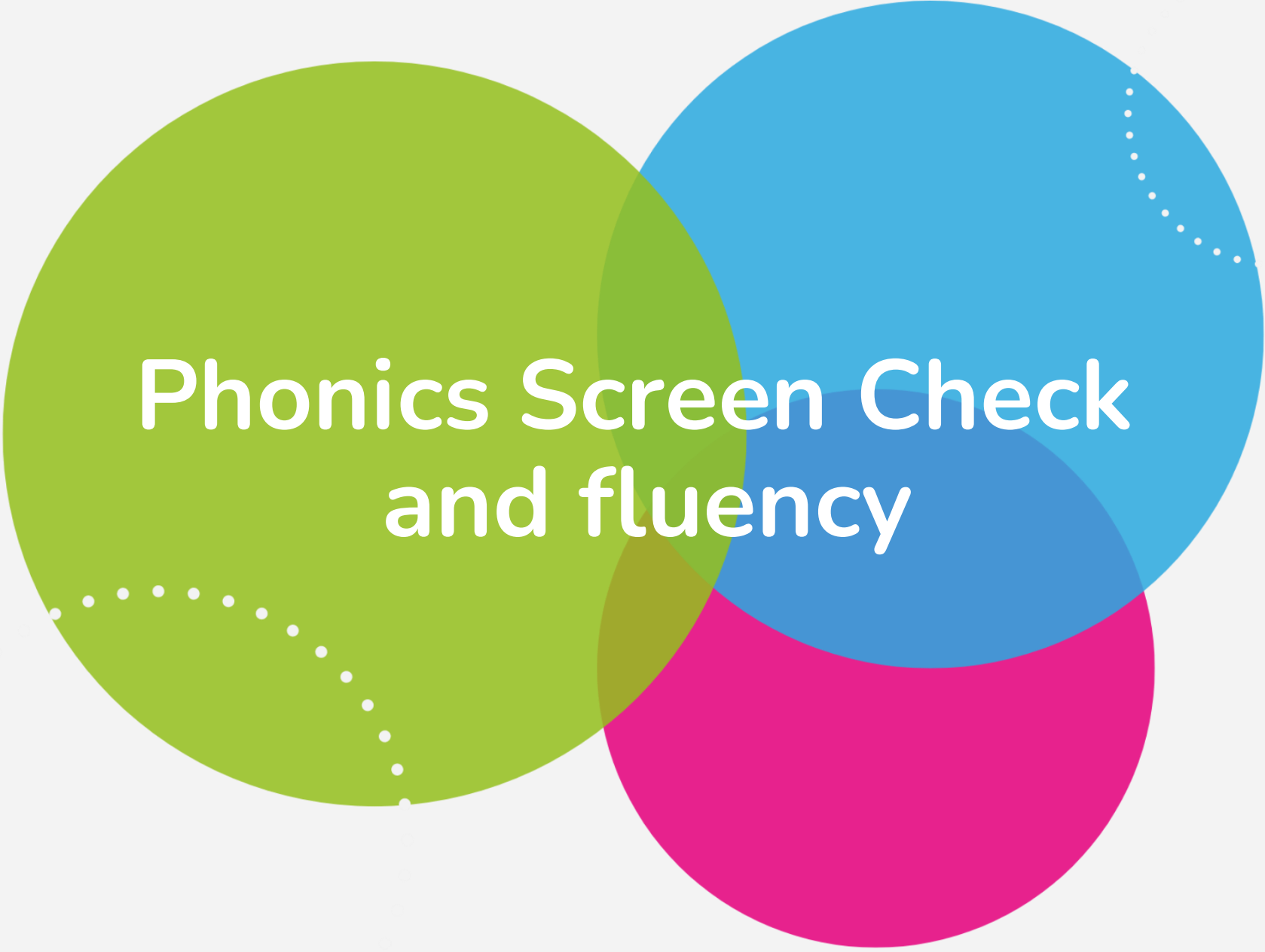
Fluency Reading Age: 11:4

Reading Fluency	
WCPM	149
Fluency Passage	(ID: 1102) ^
Growing up on a farm is fun but it can be very hard work. Every morning we get up before sunrise and get dressed in our work clothes. The first thing we do is head out to the barn to feed and water the animals. The cows and horses get a mixture of corn, grass and hay. The chickens love to eat corn feed mixed with fruit and vegetables. Next, my dad milks the cows while my brother and I bring the milk to the cooling tanks where it is stored until the milk truck arrives. Once we finish with the animals, we head out into the fields. We spend the rest of the day tending to our crops. This year we are growing corn and soybeans. We inspect the plants to remove any weeds or pests and apply spray where necessary. When the sun begins to set, we head back to the house tired and dirty, but satisfied with a good day's work.	

Reading Fluency	
WCPM	138
Fluency Passage	(ID: 513) ^
Gemma sat on the steps outside of school with her guitar resting across her lap. She paused for a moment to write something down in her notebook. Then a shadow fell across the page. She looked up and saw Henry Lee looking down at her. Gemma knew Henry from music class. He was the one always banging on the drums at a tempo that annoyed Mrs Ruth the music teacher. Gemma snapped her notebook shut before he could look any further. Henry held up his hands to show he meant no harm. The honest look on his face made Gemma feel guilty for the way she reacted. Henry told her about a band he was trying to start. He would be the drummer, and his friend Tina Kim would play bass. They just needed a guitarist and singer - ideally someone who did both. Gemma resisted the urge to shout, "I do both!" Instead, she smiled coolly at Henry and said, "Why don't we jam together after school and see how we get on?"	

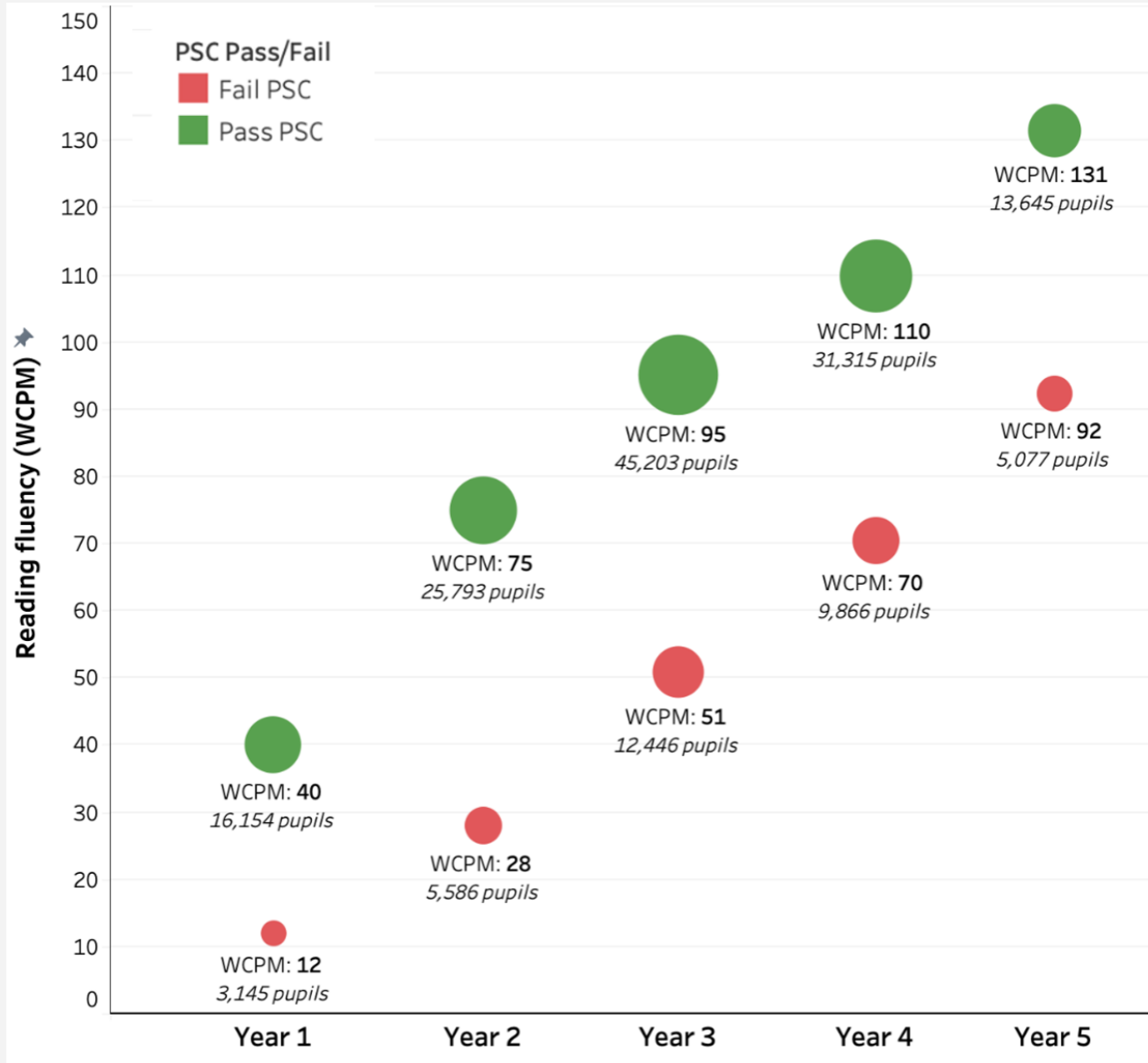
FFT Reading Test: reading fluency benchmarks (words correct per minute)





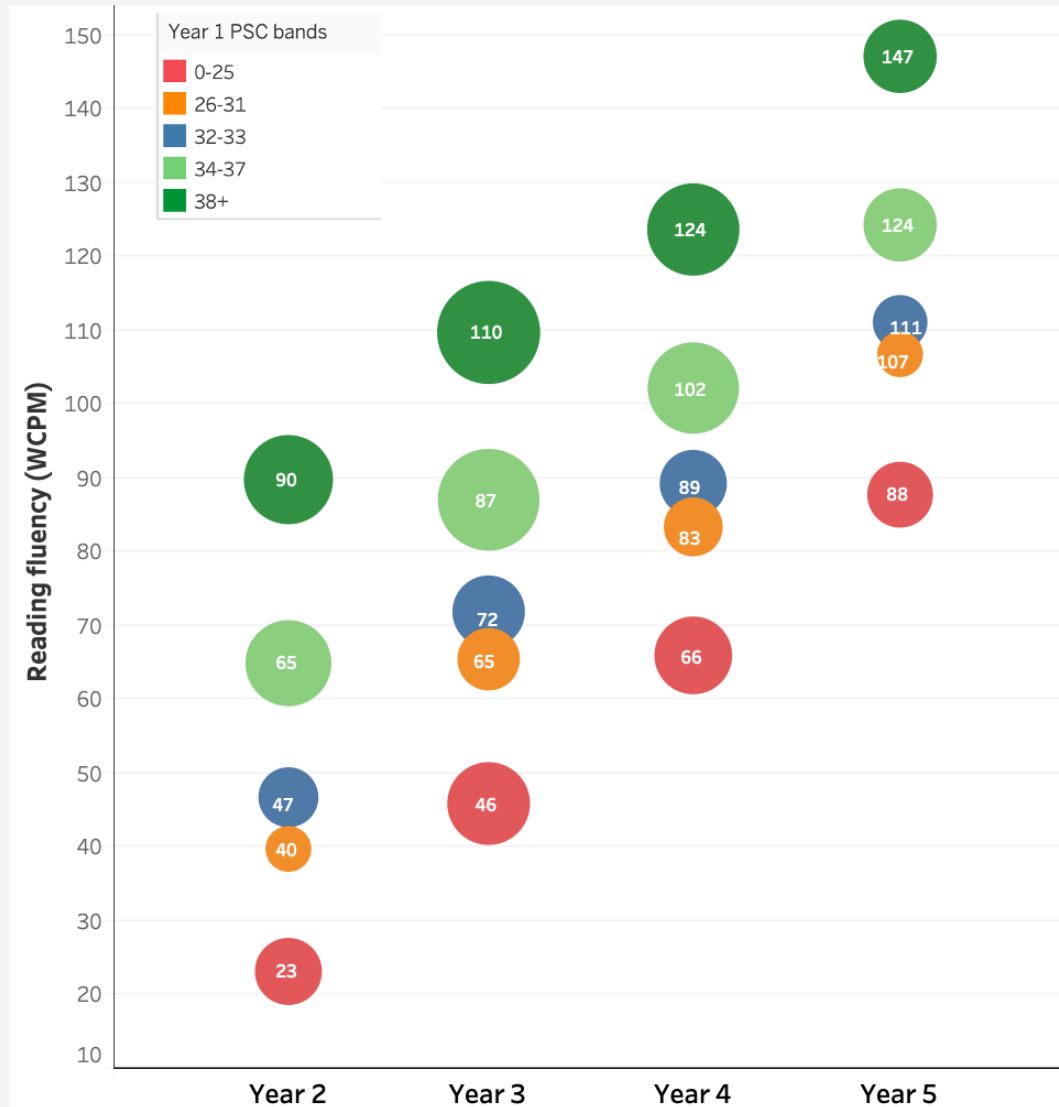
Phonics Screen Check and fluency

Phonics screening check (PSC) predicts later reading fluency

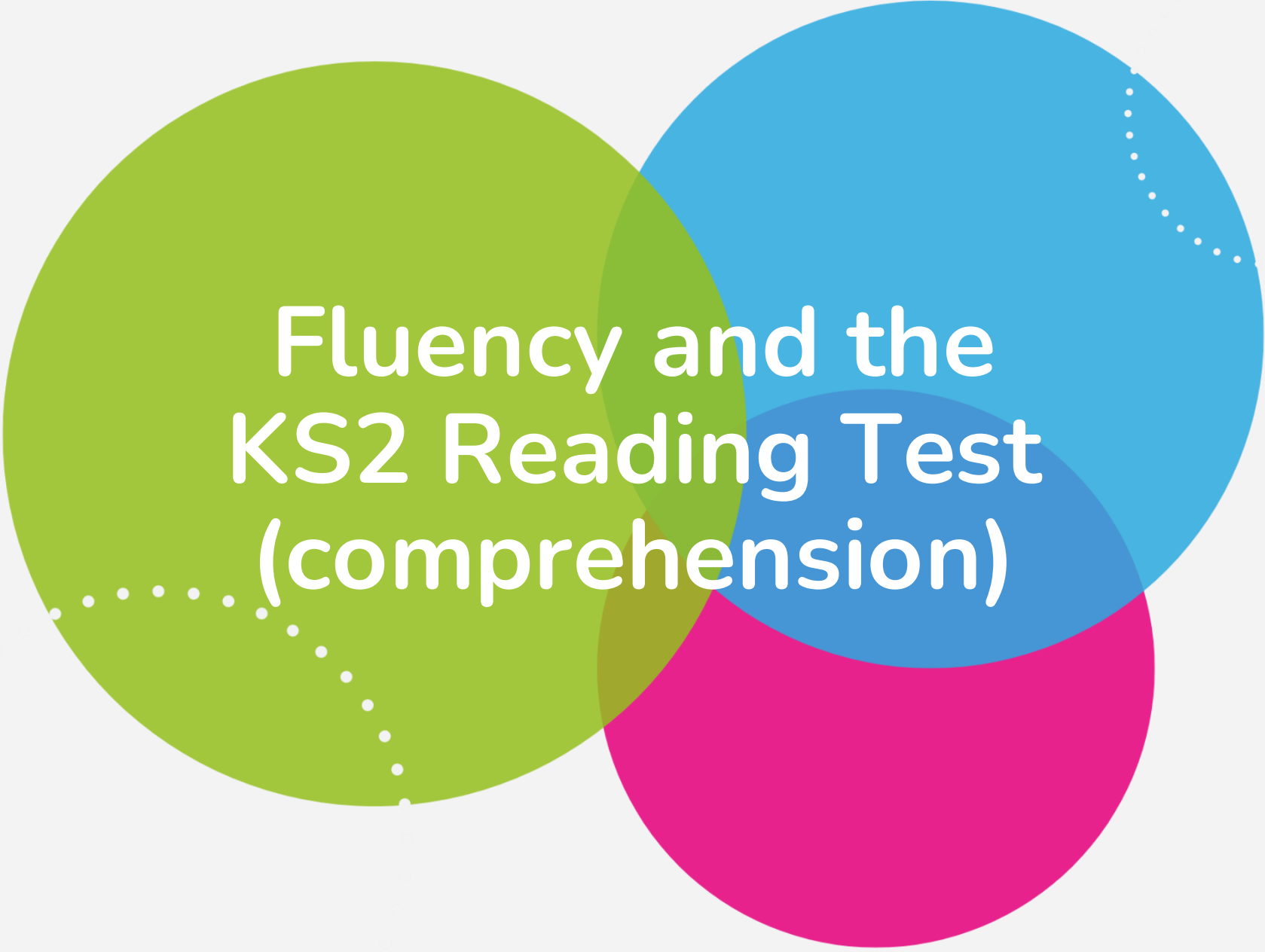


- Not passing the PSC is associated with poorer fluency across primary.
- The gap is largest in Year 2 (28 vs 75 WCPM)
- By Year 5, the pupils who failed PSC are reading around 40 WCPM slower than those who passed, and not meeting minimum fluency thresholds

Borderline PSC passes at risk of poor fluency



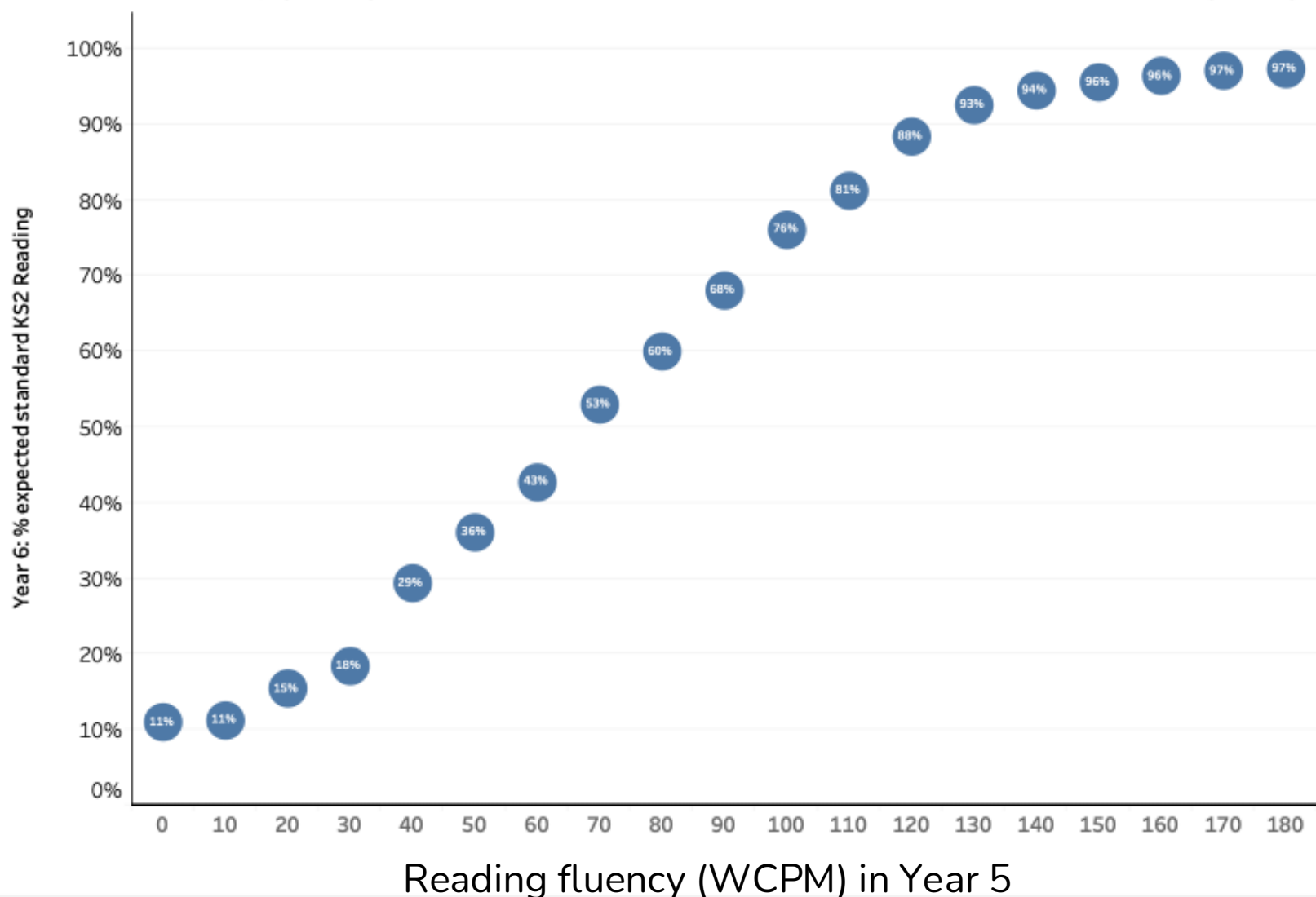
- Phonics raw score 'pecking order' replicated in fluency across primary.
- Two groups to focus on:
- **Poor decoders (PSC 0-25)**: will require phonics & fluency support
- **Average decoders (PSC 26-31 & PSC 32-33)**: fluency well below top groups, gap not closing and not much difference between PSC pass/fail



Fluency and the KS2 Reading Test (comprehension)

WCPM is a useful predictor of KS2 reading

Year 5 reading fluency (WCPM) and percentage of pupils achieving KS2 Reading expected standard (Year 6)



A short reading fluency check (2-3 minutes) provides a useful indicator of KS2 reading outcomes

50 WCPM

- 36% get to expected standard

70 WCPM:

- 53% get to expected standard

110 WCPM

- 81% get to expected standard

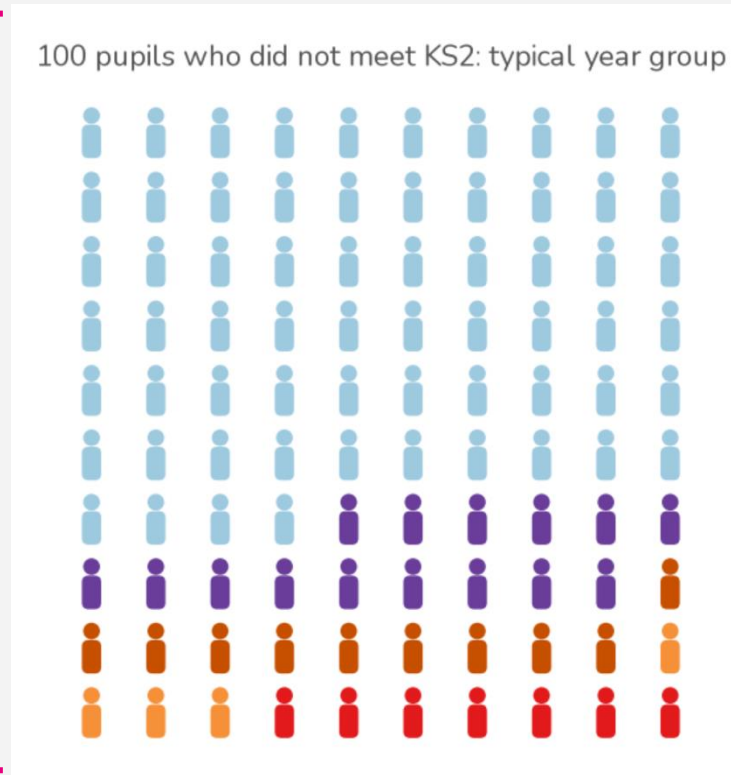
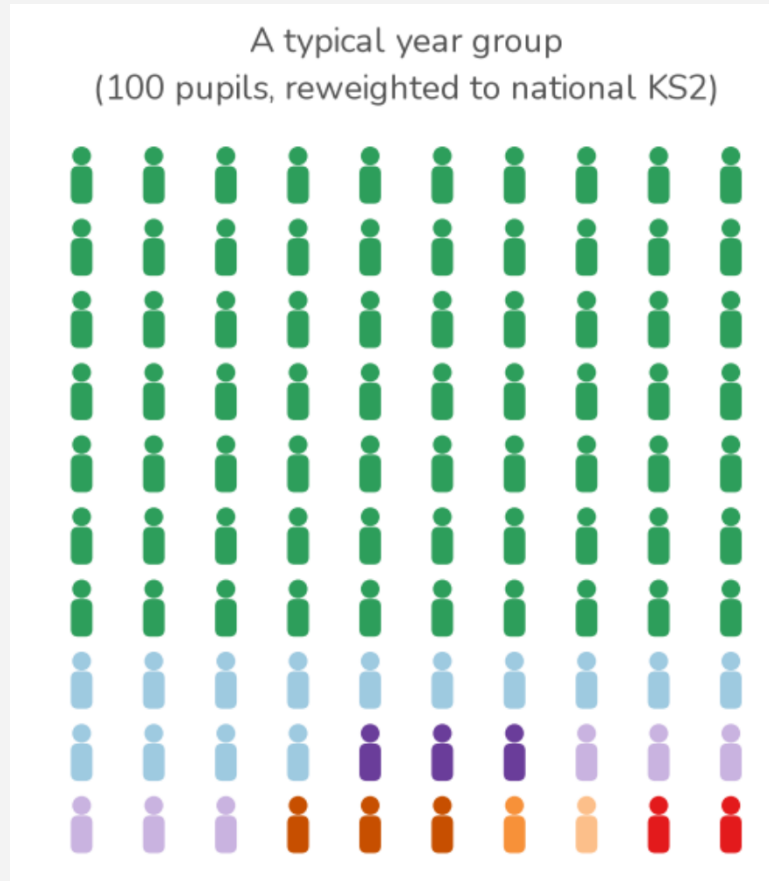
130 WCPM

- 93% get to expected standard

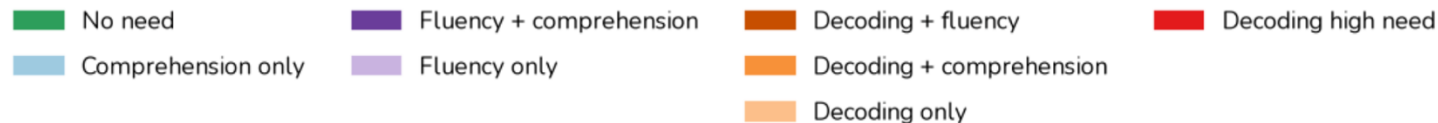


Supporting struggling readers

Using assessments to target reading needs for struggling readers



1. **Identify** each pupil's reading needs
2. **Intervention:** targeted intervention and/or universal in-class support
3. **Review** which intervention programmes work for particular reading needs

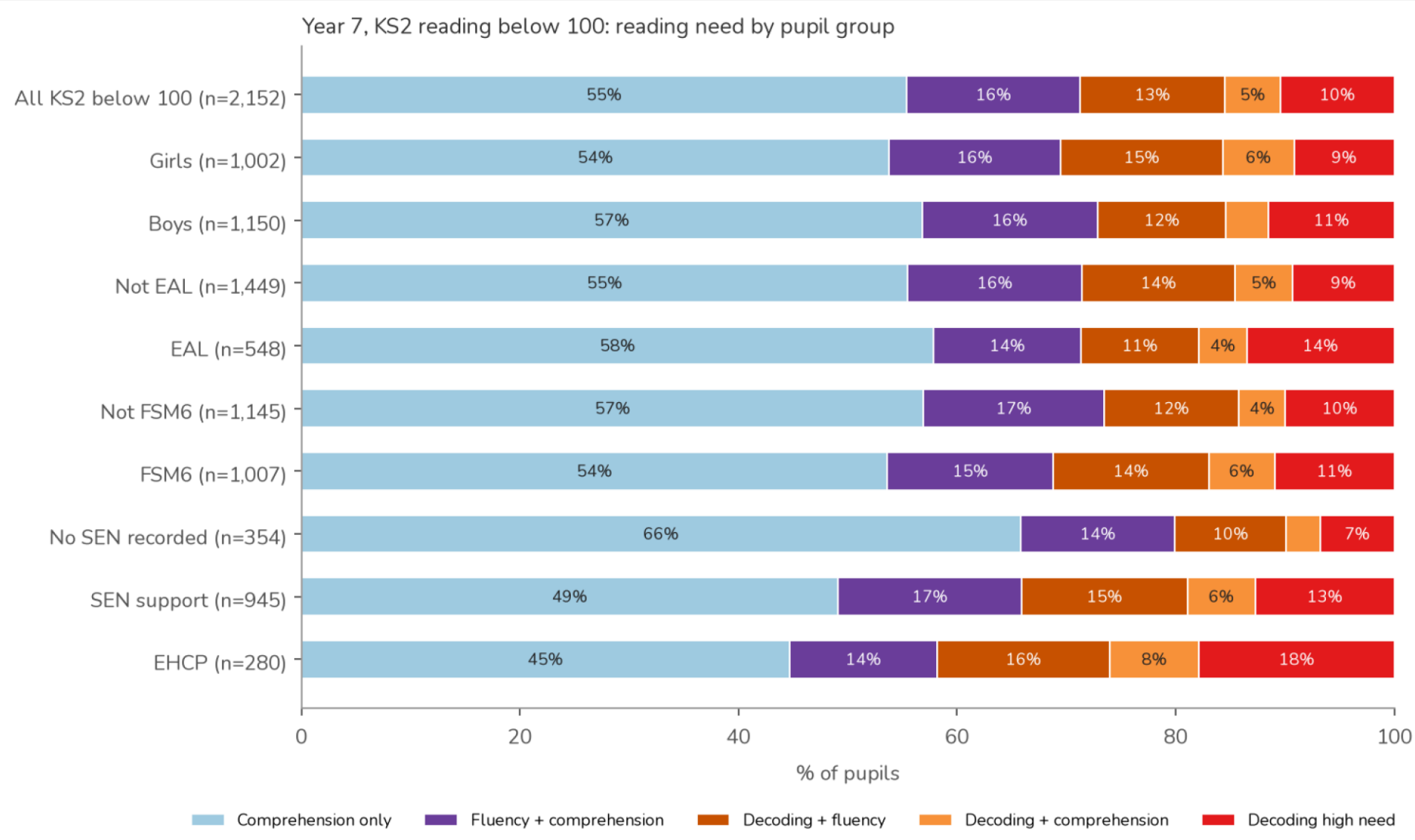


Struggling readers and pupil context

Readings needs are broadly similar for different pupil groups

Higher decoding needs for **EAL** and **SEND** pupils (*)

Pupils with **No SEND** have slightly lower decoding needs and higher comprehension needs



How can schools and trusts improve reading?

1



Start with phonics

Teaching phonics remains the essential starting point

2



Check fluency

Assess fluency throughout primary school

3



Look beyond the pass mark

The Phonics Screening Check pass mark is not the full picture

4



Identify needs

Use reading assessments to find struggling readers and their needs

5



Target support

Match interventions and class teaching to each reader's needs

Thank you

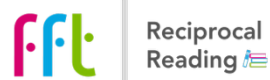
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Primary schools



DFE validated
phonics programme



Reading
comprehension
intervention with
proven impact from
EEF trials



Reading catch-up
programme for
decoding and fluency
(current EEF trial)

Secondary schools



KS3 phonics
intervention and
assessment
developed with Little
Wandle and Harper
Collins



CPD for all
secondary schools,
delivered in
partnership with the
DfE for 2025/26

All schools



Online adaptive
assessments to
assess reading skills
and identify
struggling readers