



Little Wandle Champion Schools information pack

What is a Little Wandle Champion School?

Little Wandle Champion Schools is a new initiative that will create a network of schools across the country to model exemplary practice and to provide information and support for Little Wandle members.

Champion Schools will support member schools with the successful implementation of *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* by providing additional advice and guidance through:

- 'Little Wandle Live' events that model good practice and fidelity to the programme
- Professional development on the implementation of the key features of *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised*, showing complete fidelity to the programme in:
 - whole-class phonics lessons
 - the use of assessment for learning
 - the teaching of Daily Keep-up
 - reading practice sessions
 - the use of the Little Wandle assessments tracker website
- Contributing best practice case studies for Little Wandle webinars through the year.



Little Wandle Champion Schools meet our 16 Standards of Excellence and facilitate collaboration and the sharing of best practice between schools

Champion School accreditation

Champion School status will be awarded to schools who successfully meet all the Champion School Standards of Excellence. A full assessment and audit of the school's practice will be carried out by two designated assessors from Little Wandle.

Designation will be re-assessed every two years, or on significant change of school leaders, or where key designation criteria are no longer met.

Accreditation process

1. The Head Teacher and Reading Leader attend a **Champion School briefing**
2. The Head Teacher completes an **online expression of interest** form.
(A link to the form will be provided at the Champion School briefing.)
3. Little Wandle checks that the school meets '**on paper**' standards and is in a context and/or region that supports the network of Champion Schools.
4. Little Wandle arranges and holds a **brief introductory conversation** with the Head Teacher and key staff about the accreditation process and the next steps.
5. A date is agreed for a **brief drop-in visit** to the school. A Little Wandle assessor visits the school to meet the team in person and tour the school.
6. The school completes the **self-evaluation form** to assess its strengths and areas of development against the Champion School Standards of Excellence.
7. Little Wandle arranges and holds an **in-depth, online evaluation call** with the school to review the self-evaluation against the Champion School Standards of Excellence.
8. If the call is successful, the Little Wandle assessors make a further **visit to audit practice** against the Champion School Standards of Excellence.
9. If the visit is **successful: Champion School designation** is shared. The onboarding process begins and a service level agreement is set up with the school.
10. If the visit is **unsuccessful: areas and opportunities for development** or alternative involvement in the Little Wandle programme is shared and/or a timescale for any potential reassessment is set.



Little Wandle Champion Schools meet our 16 Standards of Excellence and facilitate collaboration and the sharing of best practice between schools

Champion School Standards of Excellence

All standards will need to be met and evidenced as part of the accreditation process in order to be awarded Champion School status.

1. Ofsted rating of good or outstanding.
2. Up-to-date information about Little Wandle on the school website.
3. Full implementation of *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* for a minimum of three terms.
4. A culture of reading is a priority across the school, with a strong commitment to ensuring every child learns to read by developing their interest in reading as well as their reading skills.
5. All children are read to daily, showing: a well-considered logic; specified, protected time; use of high-quality texts across a range of genres. This must be happening in all year groups.
6. The school's Phonics Screening Check (PSC) results are significantly above national averages (usually 90+%) with ambitious predictions.*
7. The leadership of Little Wandle is strong, led by the Head Teacher and fully supported by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). There is capacity within the leadership team to coach and empower all teaching and support staff.
8. The implementation of Little Wandle is prioritised in school, evidenced by:
 - protected time for the Reading Leader
 - reading practice sessions that are well timetabled and resourced
 - a commitment that all staff are and will remain up to date with training
 - the impact of continual coaching and monitoring of practice
 - the use of Little Wandle resources including matched decodable books.
9. There is fidelity to the programme in all phonics lessons in all classes.
10. There is fidelity to the programme in all reading practice sessions, using fully decodable books.
11. The original HarperCollins Little Wandle classroom resources are used consistently.
12. The Little Wandle assessments are used consistently and interpreted effectively across the school.



Little Wandle Champion Schools meet our 16 Standards of Excellence and facilitate collaboration and the sharing of best practice between schools

-
13. Evidence from two full terms of assessment data shows that children are making substantial progress. Most children are on track at each half-termly assessment point, with robust Keep-up plans in place for children at risk of falling behind.**
 14. There is fidelity to the programme in all Keep-up teaching and evidence of the success of this in Reception and Year 1.
 15. Rapid Catch-up teaching is in place for children in Year 2 and above.
 16. Parents are informed of, engaged in, and understand the reading approaches being used.

*For Special Schools or schools with specific contextual factors, the PSC result standard may not apply but there will need to be evidence of ambitious predictions and high expectations of progress.

**This criterion can be discussed and adjusted accordingly in the following circumstances:

- where there are children with a SEND (with or awaiting an EHCP) and whose primary need is cognitive
- in schools with a SEND Base
- where there are new admissions in Year 1 from overseas.

In these circumstances, the school must provide evidence that these identified children are making progress against the Little Wandle progression, and that the teaching of Keep-up is monitored and is good.



Little Wandle Champion Schools meet our 16 Standards of Excellence and facilitate collaboration and the sharing of best practice between schools

Organisational requirements

Schools will need the capacity in terms of staffing and space to host visiting schools half-termly, with numbers of visitors for each Little Wandle Live event appropriate to the school space and capacity.

Champion School core activity

The Champion School will:

- Show ongoing loyalty, fidelity to and enthusiasm for all aspects of the Little Wandle programme
- Demonstrate exclusive use of Little Wandle resources for all Champion School events
- Host a minimum of six Little Wandle Live events for schools across the school year, using the programme outline provided by Little Wandle*
- Use agreed resources and presentation materials for all Little Wandle Live events
- Provide support for Reading Leader webinars from the Reading Leader or key SLT member (one per half term)
- Contribute to Little Wandle CPD events over the year (one per term)
- Trial new Little Wandle resources if required
- Attend training and networking events for Champion Schools
- Participate in any evaluation processes required
- Share progress assessment scores for Reception and Year 1 half-termly with Little Wandle
- Share any significant changes in leadership, Ofsted grade or PSC results with Little Wandle
- Discuss and agree with Little Wandle any additional activity to support Little Wandle schools beyond the core activity above.

*Where fewer Live Events are appropriate (for example in small schools/Special Schools), other alternative Champion School contributions will be agreed with the Little Wandle team.



Little Wandle Champion Schools meet our 16 Standards of Excellence and facilitate collaboration and the sharing of best practice between schools

Little Wandle will provide:

- A Champion School certificate and website badge
- Funding for core Champion School activity to cover staff release, venue, hosting and catering costs
- Ongoing training to maintain the highest standards and keep up to date with programme developments
- Administration and booking support for Champion School events
- Regular networking opportunities for Champion Schools
- Reassessment of the school every two years, or when there is a significant change in leadership.

HarperCollins will provide:

- 50% discount for top-up Little Wandle books and resources (as a Champion School it is expected that the school will already have invested in core books and resources)
- A free set of event resources – one additional copy of all resources for events (not for daily use)
- Little Wandle Live event support – with a stand and additional books and classroom resources if needed and attendance by a Collins representative where possible
- Sample packs for event delegates with a selection of books and detailed information about the classroom resources.



Little Wandle Champion Schools meet our 16 Standards of Excellence and facilitate collaboration and the sharing of best practice between schools

How will the funding work?

Little Wandle will provide funding directly to Champion Schools through an annual service level agreement. Rates will be set for Champion School core activity and any additional professional development activity delivered by Little Wandle trainers (see below) within the Champion School. Payment for Champion School activity will be made on receipt of required evidence and evaluation of the activity, and claimed for each half term.

Additional activity

Agreed named leaders from Champion Schools may have the capacity for additional Little Wandle training work. Funding will be provided by Little Wandle for any additional professional development activity delivered by the named Champion School trainers in agreement with the school and the Little Wandle leadership team.



Little Wandle Champion Schools meet our 16 Standards of Excellence and facilitate collaboration and the sharing of best practice between schools