



On the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021, the DfE released the following update regarding the use of Letters and Sounds:

**The removal of Letters and Sounds 2007 from the Department's list of validated phonics programmes – teachers' questions answered**

<https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/05/17/the-removal-of-letters-and-sounds-2007-from-the-departments-list-of-validated-phonics-programmes-teachers-questions-answered/>

**Does this mean we have to stop using Letters and Sounds 2007?**

**No.** You don't have to stop using Letters and Sounds 2007 now, or at all. Ofsted do not have a preferred programme or approach. What's important is that schools take an approach that is rigorous, systematic, used with fidelity (any resources used should exactly match the Grapheme Phoneme Correspondence (GPC) progression of their chosen SSP approach), and achieves strong results for all pupils, including the most disadvantaged. We believe the easiest way to achieve this is to use a full SSP programme from the validated list, **but this is not mandatory.**

The Primary English and Literacy Team at Lancashire Professional Development Service (LPDS) recommend that schools continue to use their existing phonics programme, with fidelity, if this is proving effective.

Nicola Martin, Senior Consultant for Primary English and Literacy, is currently working with the phonics experts at LPDS to produce a **new publication for the Letters and Sounds Programme** in line with the core criteria provided by DfE.

The most recent progression for the Letters and Sounds Programme produced by the Primary English and Literacy team in March 2021 is available here:

<https://www.lancsngfl.ac.uk/curriculum/english/download/file/NEW%20Assessment%20and%20Progression%20in%20Phonics%20Letters%20and%20Sounds.pdf>

CPD for the delivery of the Letters and Sounds Programme, including catch-up intervention, is available from LPDS:

[https://www.lancsngfl.ac.uk/curriculum/english/download/file/Phonics%20Suite%20of%20flyer%20\(v2\).pdf](https://www.lancsngfl.ac.uk/curriculum/english/download/file/Phonics%20Suite%20of%20flyer%20(v2).pdf)

