

WORD ROOTS PILOT

Trust-Wide Final Impact Summary

Baseline to final assessment findings



Headline finding

Across the trust-wide pilot, pupils made clear gains in reading, morphological knowledge, comprehension and writing. The strongest progress was among pupils who began from lower starting points.

+12.4pp

average reading gain

85%

improved or maintained
reading

4/4

reading domains above
baseline

+15.1pp

average writing gain

Headline figures use matched baseline and final data from participating groups.

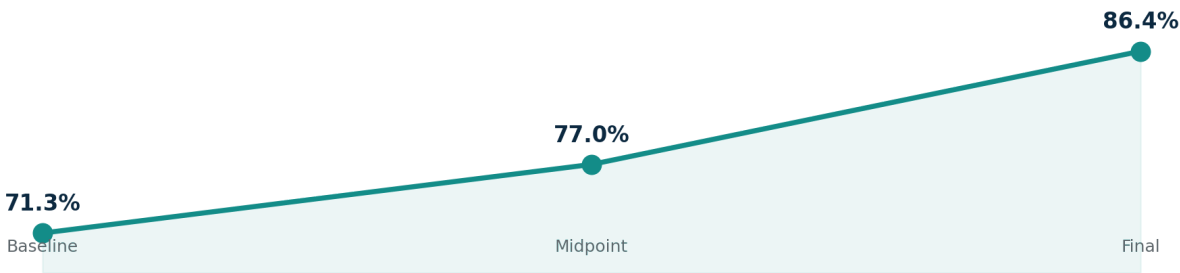
1. Pilot at a glance

The pilot evaluated a 12-week Word Roots programme across participating Year 7 and Year 9 groups. The combined analysis draws on matched baseline, midpoint and final assessment records, with reading and writing data included where available.

All completed final assessments are retained in the primary analysis.

2. Progress strengthened over time

For pupils with complete baseline, midpoint and final data, the combined average rose at each assessment point.



Combined three-point trajectory for pupils with complete data.

What the trajectory shows

The combined average increased from 71.3% at baseline to 77.0% at midpoint and 86.4% at final assessment. This provides stronger evidence than a single before and after comparison, because progress was visible during delivery and strengthened by the endpoint.

3. The clearest findings

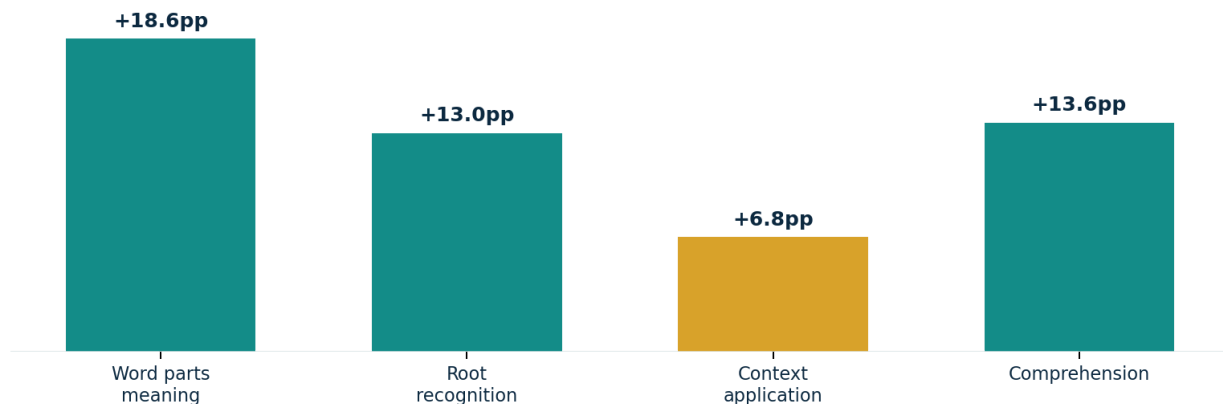
Strongest gains for lower-starting pupils Across participating groups, lower-starting pupils made average gains of between 17.3 and 22.7 percentage points.	Knowledge transferred into reading Word-parts meaning, root recognition, context application and comprehension all ended above baseline.	Writing outcomes were positive Across the matched pilot data, the average writing score rose by 15.1 percentage points.
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4. Reading and writing outcomes

Overall reading

Measure	Combined result	Interpretation
Average reading gain	+12.4 percentage points	Clear positive baseline to final movement
Improved or maintained	85% of participating pupils	Progress was broad across participating groups
Reading domains above baseline	4 of 4	The endpoint profile was stronger and more balanced

Change by reading domain



Approximate combined domain gains, weighted using the matched pupil cohorts reported in the final pilot reports.

Writing

+15.1pp	100%	Matched data
average writing gain	improved or maintained	Baseline to final comparison

Writing outcomes are a useful secondary indicator and reflect the Word Roots programme rubric, not a nationally standardised writing measure.

5. What the findings suggest

- The overall reading result is positive across the matched cohort, with a 12.4 percentage-point average gain and 85% of pupils improving or maintaining their baseline score.
- The strongest progress was among pupils with lower starting points, suggesting that the programme may be particularly valuable where pupils have the greatest room to grow.
- All four reading domains ended above baseline. This includes comprehension, which provides an important indicator that morphological and vocabulary knowledge was being used to support understanding of connected text.
- Writing outcomes were positive across participating groups. The combined average rose by 15.1 percentage points, and every pupil with matched writing data improved or maintained their baseline score.
- The complete three-point cohort showed sustained progress, with the combined average increasing at midpoint and rising further by final assessment.

6. About the evidence



Evidence note

This was a small-scale school pilot rather than a controlled trial. Results are based on matched pupil records and Word Roots programme assessments. One atypical final response pattern was retained in the primary analysis, with sensitivity analysis used to test whether it changed the overall conclusion. It did not. The findings provide encouraging early evidence and a clear foundation for continued evaluation as the programme reaches more schools.

Could Word Roots support your pupils?

Explore Word Roots: routeeducation.co.uk/word-roots

Discuss implementation: routeeducation.co.uk/contact