

RISE Network – Reducing the Disadvantage Gap

Reception Year Showcase events

Jan 2026 – March 2026

Guide for schools hosting a showcase event.

What is it?: a showcase is a guided observation of a reception year classroom with narration. It focusses on up to 3 topics, providing time to explain the pedagogy, see it in action, and reflect.

Numbers: 15–30 observers from other schools depending on the room size and facilities. Schools with 2 or 3 form entry can split observers across classrooms.

Timescale: DfE funding for this is only available until the end of March 2026 so all showcases must take place before the end of March.

Recommended schedule: can be adjusted depending on the topic/theme.

- 8:30 arrival for networking and coffee
- 8:45 Welcome, introductions and an overview of this RISE network and DfE goals
- 8:50 – **explanation** of what you are about to observe. Start with pedagogy on one aspect of good practice (e.g. Handwriting opportunities in the environment)
- 9:00 – 9:30 – **observe**, go and see it in practice
- 9:30 – 9:45 – **reflect** for own practice

- 9:45 – 10:45 – session 2 – repeat the above pattern (explanation, observe, reflect) with another aspect
- 11:00 – 12:00 – session 3 – repeat with another aspect

What the showcase could cover: Showcases should focus on 2 or 3 areas of practice that are positively contributing to strong attainment against the 12 Early Learning Goals (listed below), particularly to support our disadvantaged pupils.

'Transcription (handwriting and spelling); communication and language; modelling of high quality language and questioning sensitively' (Writing Framework quote) by adults are regarded as broad priorities for development, and showcases should also reflect the findings of the Stronger Foundations report.

12 ELG goals which contribute to Good Level of Development (GLD):

Listening, attention and understanding

Speaking

Self-regulation

Managing self

Building relationships

Gross motor skills

Fine motor skills

Comprehension

Word reading

Number

Numerical patterns

Optional microphone/headset system: some schools have found using a microphone/headset system very helpful during similar sessions. This allows someone to talk to the observers without disrupting the lesson.

An example of a system is: <https://www.tourguide-systems.co.uk/ats-20-digital-1-guide-34-listeners>

These can be rented for around £150 +VAT per set.

Contact: Mike, hire@applesound.com, 01244 456899

Registration: a form will be set up to register for each event. Mark Lambell (Meridian Trust) will set up the form with each host school given access to their form so they can view signups and the attendee list.

Regional coverage: this is a regional network so our aim is to have at least one showcase in each subregion and hopefully one in each LA area.

Template slide set: a standard template slide set will be created for showcase schools to adapt and use. This will include: overview of DfE priorities, overview of the RISE Reception Year network, timetable for the morning, further opportunities to be involved. The DfE slides will be sent to participants as pre reading to save time presenting them at the showcase.

Funding available:

There is £1,000 available to each school that hosts a showcase. A further £500 is available to showcase schools if they undertake follow up 1-2-1 support with 1 or more schools after the showcase. A 1-page case study on the support will need to be completed to trigger the £500 payment. A template for this is available by emailing mlambell@meridiantrust.co.uk

Quality assurance:

Quality assurance will be provided in advance through trust/LA recommendation and Ofsted reports. Showcase leads will also visit each other's showcase to provide a further level of QA.

Schedule of showcase events:

Can be found at the link below. Please note this will be updated as more showcases are scheduled.

[RISE Showcase schedule.docx](#)