



Department
for Education

English Hubs

Mix and Match FAQ

Mixing and matching

What is mixing and matching?

Mixing and matching is using resources from one, or more, Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP) programme or resource provider that breaks up important sequences of work and disrupts planned progression of the SSP programme being taught by the school.

Are there situations where can we mix and match?

You can only consider purchasing a resource from another supplier when the resource is **not** available from the SSP programme provider. You must then consider whether the product is compatible by using the following criteria:

- The resource must be marketed as fully compatible to the SSP programme the school is using **and**
- you must be satisfied that the resource will not break up sequences of work or disrupt planned progression of the SSP programme. The resource must work faithfully within the structure of the programme and with the teaching of phonemes and graphemes in the specified order **and**
- in the case of **fully decodable books**, the hub has used the decodable reader guidance to assess compatibility to the chosen programme

Compatibility

How can we know if a resource is marketed as compatible?

The supplier will indicate this on their website or in marketing materials. If it is not clear or you are unsure then the hub should contact the supplier directly.

Why does a resource have to be marketed as compatible by the supplier?

The supplier has a legal right under copy-right law to control the way their intellectual property is being used. The supplier must give their permission for their product to be used for another SSP programme.

Generic resources

Where can we purchase generic resources from?

Resources such as flashcards, friezes, magnetic letters, etc. that are not programme specific can be purchased from any supplier.

Can we purchase Bug Club and Floppy's Phonics resources for use with Letters and Sounds?

Pearsons (who supply Bug Club resources) and Oxford University Press (who supply Floppy's Phonics Sounds and Letters) have confirmed that they will market some of their resources as compatible with Letters and Sounds. As with all mix and match purchases, the school must satisfy themselves that the resource they will purchase will not break up sequences of work or disrupt planned progression of the SSP programme. The resource must work faithfully within the structure of the programme and with the teaching of phonemes and graphemes in the specified order. In the case of **fully decodable books**, the hub must **also** refer to the decodable reader guidance to assess compatibility to the SSP programme in addition to the above.

Can we buy Read Write Inc. resources to use with Letters and Sounds?

No. RWI have confirmed that they will not be marketing their products as compatible with another SSP programme. RWI flashcards contain copyright mnemonics which are programme specific and should not be used for another programme.