



IMPACT REPORT 2023/24

Tackling education inequality since 1995
Registered Charity No. 1107219



Questfor
Learning

What we did...

In 2023/24 we:

- Supported 550 of Oxfordshire's most disadvantaged children - more than double the number of children than pre-pandemic.
- Delivered a total of 7,323 hours tutoring in 16 Oxfordshire primary schools.
- Helped children make learning progress of around 10,000 months in reading and maths.
- Completed Year 4 of the National Tutoring Programme as an Approved Tuition Partner.
- Raised c. £147,000 for programme delivery in partner schools against a backdrop of dwindling NTP subsidy.
- Strengthened our trustee board with the addition of a local headteacher with extensive teaching and leadership experience.
- Welcomed a new Executive Director and began work on our new three-year strategy to develop programmes and deliver financial sustainability so we can better serve children who need our support.

We are a member of the Fair Education Alliance, working alongside other organisations to highlight ongoing education challenges faced by UK children.



Message from Chris Higgins, our new Executive Director

Over the past 30 years, Quest for Learning has transformed the lives of more than 6,500 children in Oxfordshire. Thanks to you, 550 children benefited from our specialist tutoring this year. We've trebled our reach in the last three years, responding to the urgent needs of children who were already struggling and lost learning in the pandemic.

Now we face a new and significant challenge. Demand for our services has increased hugely, yet with the end of National Tutoring Programme funding, tighter school budgets, and a more challenging fundraising environment, children in Oxfordshire risk not being able to access the opportunity they need. To make matters worse, the gap between outcomes for disadvantaged children and their better-off peers is wider than it has been in a decade.

Our mission remains the same: to support disadvantaged children, improve literacy, numeracy and confidence, and provide opportunities for those who would otherwise be left behind.

I am proud and privileged to lead Quest for Learning during this pivotal time, and we've already begun reshaping our programmes, enhancing financial sustainability, and collaborating with local organisations to broaden our impact and become a leader in ensuring a wider portfolio of support for local children.

Your continued support is crucial to our success, and together we can bridge the gap and build a brighter future for all children in Oxfordshire.

Thank you.



School strategy integration

Many schools across the county have integrated Quest for Learning programmes into their school reading strategy.

Collaboration

We contributed to FEA research on the economic impact of tutoring, & remain a key member of local charity and education groups.

Praise from OFSTED

Schools using Quest for Learning have been praised by Ofsted as a result of the progress pupils have made.

Library development

We developed our non-fiction library to better represent the interests and reading levels of the children we tutor.

...to make a difference.

“Quest for Learning has been delivering literacy programmes in our school for three years. We were thrilled when our recent Ofsted report praised the strength of our reading levels; I can’t overstate the key role Quest for Learning’s tutoring has played in that success. They’ve made a huge impact in a short space of time, so much so that their programmes have become part of our reading improvement strategy.”

Headteacher, Quest for Learning partner school



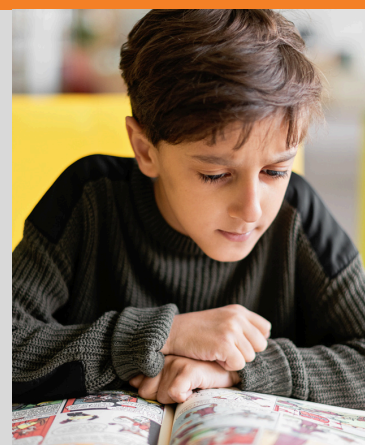
Elsie’s story

Elsie is autistic, dyslexic, and from a family that is illiterate. Bright and quick-to-learn, Elsie’s patience and self-belief increased during BookQuest, and she found fuel for her lively imagination. With her improved confidence and new interest in books, her reading age leapt by two years. She even began reading at home by herself after borrowing books. This amazing step forwards has empowered her to try new things and enjoy her reading.

Rupy’s story

Rupy has special educational needs (SEND). His challenging and disruptive behaviour in the classroom was beginning to have a severe impact on his development – both socially and academically. As a visual learner who struggled to wait his turn; he could easily become frustrated and give up. In the NumSkills small group he learned to play fun number games that did not rely on the reading and writing skills he found hard. Instead, he could be

successful using mental maths – a massive confidence boost. His class teachers saw how visual games allowed Rupy to get to grips with maths processes, like adding and subtracting, for the first time. His improved self-esteem was helping him engage better in lessons and with his classmates. At the end of the course Rupy said: “I love doing maths now and I behave better because it is fun.”



+20 months

average gain in reading comprehension after 10 weeks of BookQuest and ReadingQuest programmes.

89% pupils

said they felt more confident about maths after 9 weeks of NumSkills sessions.

+18 months

average gain in reading accuracy after 10 weeks of BookQuest and ReadingQuest programmes.

Quotes from pupils, parents, and teachers

“I am surprised that I learned maths, because I never thought I could do it.”

“Since ReadingQuest I write and read better and can read the books all by myself.”

“Milly really came on leaps and bounds. The tutor really worked to find her way of learning.”

“Ali has loved BookQuest and has thrived by being in a small group.”

“After ReadingQuest Keira moved up a reading level and continues to make good progress.”

“Grace’s fluency and comprehension is better – now she’s confident enough to read aloud.”

“Mia’s confidence has increased hugely. After NumSkills she’ll persevere through hard sums.”

How can you help?

Why we need your help

One in nine children in Oxfordshire live in poverty, with one in three primary school children not reaching their age-related standard of reading. It is imperative that these children don't miss out on the chance to catch up now to have the best chance of success at secondary school and beyond.

At Quest for Learning we don't believe that growing up in disadvantaged circumstances should be a barrier to future success.

Schools are facing significant budget challenges, with headteachers making difficult decisions just to ensure they can deliver the very basics - staff salaries and maintaining statutory activities.

That's why we're working with our funders to support partner schools where children desperately need our help. Together we will empower them with the skills to maximise their educational opportunities.

“Through our partnership with Quest for Learning on their numeracy programme, NumSkills, the Angus Lawson Memorial Trust has been able to meet its goal of improving the lives of children.

Over the last three years, Quest for Learning's transformative tutoring has helped 288 disadvantaged children in nine schools across Oxfordshire with the help of the Trust - making a real impact on their maths skills and self belief.

As we continue see the attainment gap widen for children, the additional tuition provided by Quest for Learning remains invaluable and is well worth supporting.”



Rebecca Pirt - Director, The Angus Lawson Memorial Trust

How your support could change a life today

£5

could pay for a group of NumSkills pupils to have book bags filled with a notebook, pencils and games

£10

could pay for family resource packs for an entire BookQuest group to boost reading at home

£20

could pay for a session of expert ReadingQuest tuition - giving a child key skills to succeed at school

£100

could provide every child with an achievement certificate at an awards assembly - giving an extra confidence boost

£500

could fund six hours of BookQuest teaching - helping children read words and understand stories

£1,000

could pay for safeguarding, assessments and quality assurance for 10 programmes - helping us meet statutory obligations

£2,000

could pay for a school's numeracy tutoring for a whole year - a gift that will last a lifetime!

We are enormously grateful to the following organisations who helped us tackle education disadvantage in 2023/24:

Tambour Foundation
Adrian Swire Charitable Trust
Lifelines International
P F Charitable Trust
St Michael's and All Saints' Charities
Robert and Margaret Moss Charitable Trust
Warburtons Families Matter Community Grants
Abingdon Lions Club
The Big Give Trust
Doris Field Charitable Trusts
Edgar E Lawley Foundation
The Grace Trust

The Stanton Ballard Charitable Trusts
The Christopher Laing Foundation
Christ Church Oxford
The Pharsalia Charitable Trust
Makers of Playing Cards Charity
Masonic Charitable Trust
Freeths LLP Oxford
Project Spark
All Souls College, Oxford
Sarah Nowell Education Trust
John Thaw Foundation
Wallingford & Didcot Rotary Community Grants

Donate today and help tackle education disadvantage for children who need us most.



Find out how you can help at www.questforlearning.org.uk or email us at info@questforlearning.org.uk



Thameside School,
Cotman Close,
Abingdon,
OXON OX14 5NL
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