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**English Hubs**  
**Kernow** @ Trenance  
Learning Academy

**Following the DfE announcement about the validation of systematic synthetic phonics programmes, we would like to clarify the situation with all phonics programmes and Letters and Sounds in particular.**

**The main messages from the DfE are:**

- It is up to schools how they teach phonics as long as schools are using a systematic, synthetic approach
- Schools should be following one phonics programme with fidelity
- The DfE are currently going through a process where all SSPs can be validated or re-validated if they are already on the DfE's approved list (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/choosing-a-phonics-teaching-programme/list-of-phonics-teaching-programmes>). It is possible that some of these programmes might not be revalidated and some new programmes will be validated. The DfE believe that the recent announcements mean there will be more high-quality choice for schools looking at which SSP to use.

Letters and Sounds was originally published as a framework by the DfE in 2007 and many schools have developed Letters and Sounds into a programme that they teach in their school.

- There will be no expectation that schools using Letters and Sounds well, and achieving excellent results, will need to change to a new programme
- Current Letters and Sounds training, delivered by DfE validated English Hubs, will continue until July 2023, so there will be continuity for schools who are already using the current programme
- There is no suggestion that Letters and Sounds will disappear.

**The main message from us is:**

- **There is no need to rush any decision about choosing an SSP – schools will be provided with support and guidance about the range of options as new programmes are accredited.**
- **The DfE have worked closely with OFSTED to ensure their inspectors are clear about these messages.**

**If you would like to speak to us, please get in contact:**  
**info@kernowenglishhub.co.uk**