

What updates have been made to the Toolkit?

Ten strands in the Teaching and Learning Toolkit have been updated with the latest research. We have been working with a team of academics at Durham University to search for new studies published since our last Toolkit update in 2021. The findings from these new studies have been incorporated in the existing evidence base for these ten Toolkit strands.

Along with adding new studies, we have also undertaken a methodological review of the Toolkit and have made a couple of changes to the inclusion criteria for the studies that we include in the Toolkit.

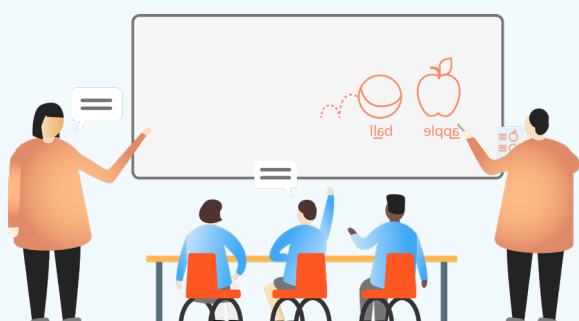
What changes have been made to inclusion criteria for the Toolkit?

We have made two changes to improve the Toolkit's rigour and reliability. Firstly, we have introduced a publication cut-off date of 1990 and secondly, we have decided to only include studies that have a minimum sample size of 30 students.

The publication cut-off date has been introduced to reflect that educational practices, policies, standards and curriculum have changed significantly over the years. We now have a lot of studies and evidence related to current practices, technologies, and strategies. Focusing on these more recent studies makes the Toolkit more reliable and relevant for current practice.

Our decision to introduce a minimum sample size aims to improve the robustness and reliability of the findings in the Toolkit strands by focusing on studies that are more trustworthy. Studies with larger sample sizes tend to give a more reliable estimate of the actual effectiveness of an intervention.

All the other inclusion criteria remain the same and can be found [here](#).



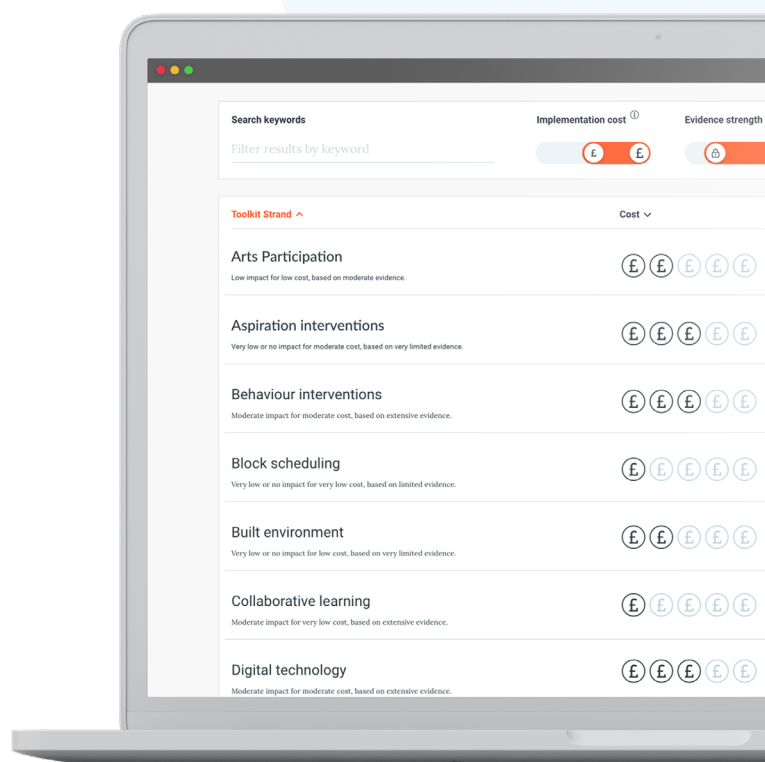
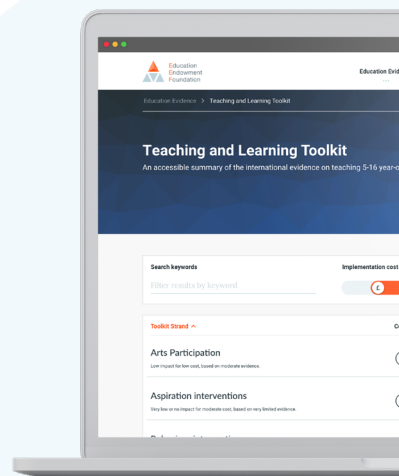
Which strands have been updated?

In the first phase the following 10 strands have been updated with the new methodological changes:

- Behaviour Interventions
- Extending School Time
- Mentoring
- Metacognition and Self-Regulation
- Oral Language Interventions
- Parental Engagement
- Peer Tutoring
- Physical Activity
- Social and Emotional Learning
- Summer Schools

When will the remaining strands be updated?

The remaining strands will be updated in two batches in late 2025 and early 2026.



Will there be any further updates to the strands beyond 2025?

All the Toolkit strands will be updated with new study searches once a year, turning the evidence base behind these strands into a living systematic review (i.e. a systematic review that is regularly updated to incorporate new evidence). This will ensure that the Toolkit remains up to date, with the latest research findings added as soon as they become available.

Why is the EEF turning the Toolkit into a Living Systematic Review?

A living systematic review is an evidence review that is continually updated incorporating new research findings as they become available. By turning the Toolkit into a living review, the EEF will be able to:

- Ensure school leaders have access to the latest research, reducing the risk of basing their decisions on outdated or incomplete evidence.
- Increase the rigour, reliability, and relevancy of the Toolkit findings by incorporating the latest research.
- With an increased and enhanced evidence base, be able to carry out more detailed analysis to support school leaders in making better evidence-informed decisions.

