

# Connectors: A Research Project

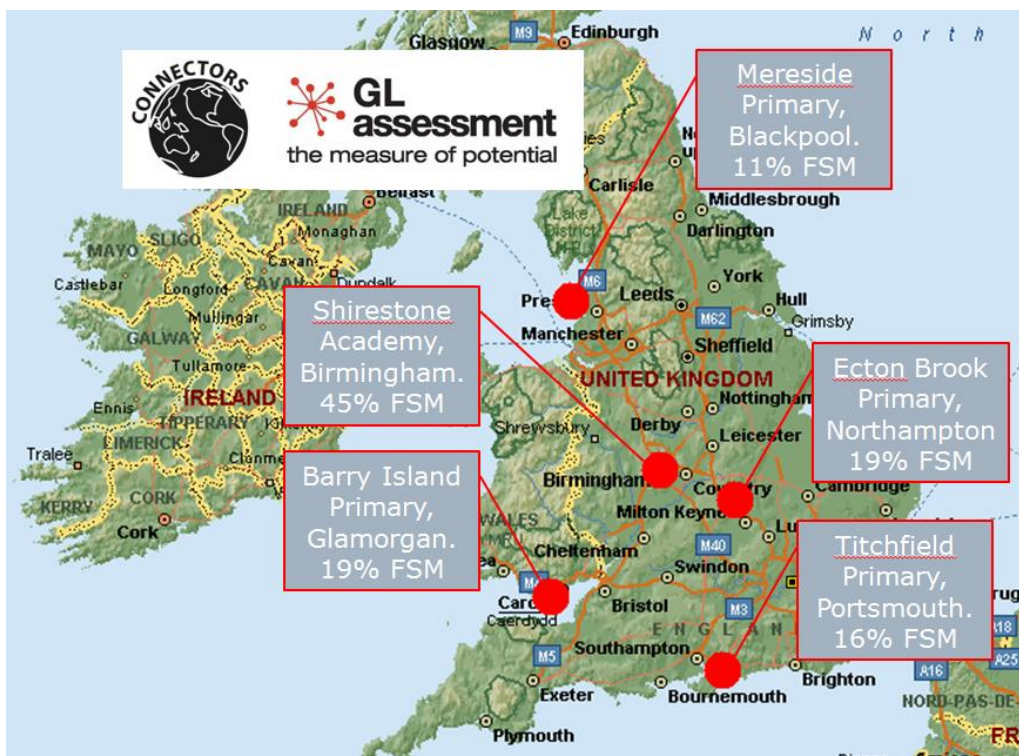
## GL Assessment and Scholastic 2013

### The Trial

In late January 2013, five schools were trained in the use of Connectors which comprised a 30-minute staff meeting to ensure that every member of staff understood what reciprocal reading is, and how to implement it in their classrooms. It was also necessary to reassure all staff that reciprocal reading does not add any more time to the working day!

After the February half-term break, teachers administered the test and then introduced Connectors as part of their usual guided reading sessions. When teachers ran their guided reading session, the pupils used Connectors. The amount of time each school spent on it in a week varied – a minimum of three times per week, a maximum of five times per week, and at least 20-minutes a session.

Three months later, ‘Test B’ was administered and the results were then analysed.



## The Test

With the *New Group Reading Test Digital (NGRT Digital)*, GL Assessment has taken the power of online testing to a new level by making the test adapt to the reading ability of the pupil. In other words, pupils will see a different version of the test depending on how they are scoring as they move through the items.

Aimed at pupils between 7 to 16 years, the standardised test comprises three sections: phonics, sentence completion and passage comprehension. Pupils enter the test according to their age and begin with the sentence completion section. Depending on their score, they will progress to either phonics tasks or a passage comprehension at a suitable level of difficulty. The difficulty is then slowly increased until the pupils' scores begin to show that the test is becoming too challenging.

Developed by GL Assessment and the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER), *NGRT Digital* is an ideal screening/monitoring test for groups of students. Its ability to show ongoing progression and achievement of students makes it an essential tool that satisfies the literacy assessment requirements of all four UK inspection frameworks.

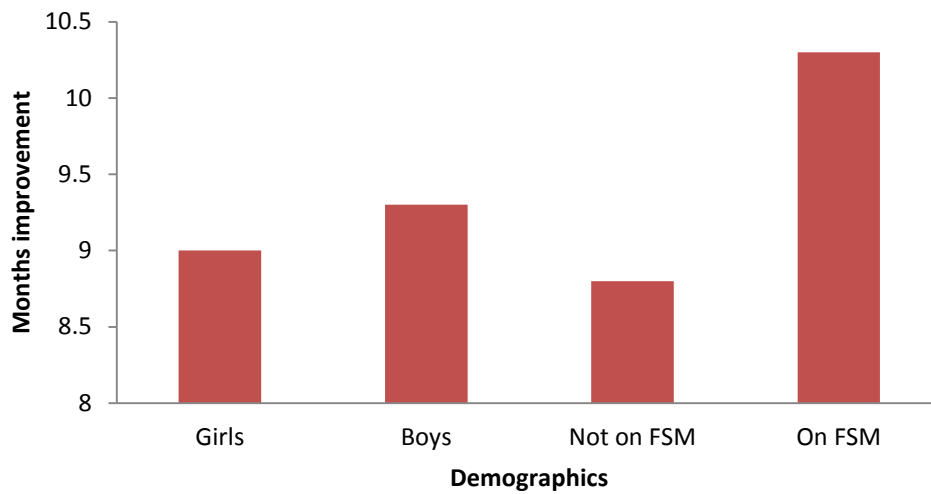
## Pupil demographics

<b>Number of pupils</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Total</b>
Year 2	29	47	76
Year 3	69	71	140
Year 4	72	68	140
Year 5	63	68	131
Year 6	71	58	129
<b>Total number of pupils</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>616</b>

<b>Number of pupils on Free School Meals (FSM)</b>	<b>Not on FSM</b>	<b>On FSM</b>	<b>Total</b>
Year 2	66	10	76
Year 3	111	29	140
Year 4	109	31	140
Year 5	99	32	131
Year 6	98	31	129
<b>Total number of pupils on Free School Meals (FSM)</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>616</b>

## The Results

**Average increase in reading age within 3-months of starting to use Connectors**



In a three month period, the increase in reading age (in months) was:

	<b>Months</b>
Children not on FSM	8.8
Children on FSM	10.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.1</b>

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Girls</b>	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Total</b>
Year 2	10.0	12.0	11.2
Year 3	5.9	7.9	6.9
Year 4	9.5	7.4	8.5
Year 5	7.6	10.3	9.0
Year 6	12.1	9.6	11.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>9.1</b>