

DOBCEL Structured Literacy Project 2024

DOBCEL Structured Literacy Project		
Level 1: SunLit Project Schools	Level 2: Structured Literacy Partners	Level 3: Science of Reading Network
Schools at this level are intensely supported to learn about and then implement the SunLit Structured Literacy methodology. They work as part of the DOBCEL & La Trobe University research partnership.	Schools at this level are supported to implement their own Structured Literacy methodology. They are provided with change management support, tailor-made professional learning and data tools, as required.	Schools at this level engage in a series of professional learning opportunities in an effort to make well-informed decisions about the model of literacy instruction they wish to adopt or maintain in their context.
<p>You may choose this level if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have participated at L1 in 2023. You have participated at L2 in 2023 and have decided that your change process would benefit from more intensive direction. You have participated at L3 in 2023, or you are new to Structured Literacy and wish to adopt a proven methodology subject to ongoing review. <p>You MUST commit to at least three years in which Structured Literacy is your key Learning & Teaching strategic priority.</p>	<p>You may choose this level if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have participated at L2 in 2023. You have participated at L1 in 2023 and have decided that your change process would benefit from less intensive direction. You have participated at L3 in 2023 or are new to Structured Literacy and wish to implement your own methodology with some resourcing and learning support from CEB. 	<p>You may choose this level if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have NOT participated in the project during 2023. <p>Please note that 2024 may be the final year in which we offer Level 3 support. We strongly advise all schools who have not yet engaged with the project to participate at Level 3 in 2024.</p> <p>We do not recommend that schools who have participated in L3 in 2023 remain at this level next year unless they are keen to repeat the learning they have already undertaken.</p>

If you would like further information about what Structured Literacy means, what it looks like in practice and how it differs from Balanced Literacy, and if you have questions about your potential involvement in 2024, please join us online for an informative webinar and Q&A session.

Structured Literacy - Information and Q&A Webinar

Thursday 13th July (Term 3, Week 1), 3.45pm - 4.45pm.

Use the Zoom Link on the [Structured Literacy website](#) homepage.

FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions



What is Structured Literacy?

It is an evidence-based, bottom-up approach to literacy instruction. It relies on four key principles that ensure the teaching of reading and writing is systematic, cumulative, explicit and diagnostic. Instruction is provided in six elements: phonology, sound-symbol (or phonics), syllables, morphology (and etymology), syntax and semantics. Structured Literacy is an approach that responds to the findings of educational research, psychology, linguistics and cognitive science. It is informed by the Sciences of Learning and Reading, and is being adopted across the world, in response to declining literacy rates.

Who is Structured Literacy for?

It is a whole-school approach that begins in Foundation and builds in complexity across all year levels, to the end of Year Six. There is a widely held misconception that Structured Literacy applies only to the junior grades of primary school. This is not correct. Structured Literacy increases in sophistication and rigour as the students progress.

Is Structured Literacy all about phonics?

No. Systematic phonics is only one of six elements. All six elements are crucial to reading and writing development.

Can Structured Literacy be integrated with a Balanced Literacy approach?

Absolutely not. The two approaches are diametrically different: one is 'top-down' and the other is 'bottom-up'. Attempts to combine the two can result in confused teachers and even more confused students.

How do we find out more about Structured Literacy before making a decision?

The best way to find out more is to join the DOBCEL Structured Literacy Project at Level 3. Please note that 2024 will be your last opportunity to participate at Level 3.

Here are some helpful links for further information:

[Iowa Reading Research Centre: An Explanation of Structured Literacy](#)

[Reading Rockets - Summary of International Dyslexia Association Explanation of S.L.](#)

[AERO - Introduction to the Science of Reading](#)

Why should we consider Structured Literacy?

In 2020, the International Literacy Association, after reviewing the current literature, stated,

"The approach to reading instruction that is currently best supported by evidence is Structured Literacy."

Structured Literacy is supported by the findings of the National Reading Panels (US, UK and Australia) and is the approach recommended by the International Dyslexia Association.