

Top Ten Tips to reflect on when considering adopting an existing intervention

1. How similar is the problem to the one I am trying to resolve (pupil characteristics, age group, nature of subject)?
2. What kind of impact do they appear to have achieved and over what period of time? From what I know of other kinds of interventions, how long does it take to see results? Am I able to invest for that amount of time?
3. How robust is the evidence for the impact being claimed (Eg additional months progress on some nationally standardized scale, scale of pupils/groups involved, comparator groups, externally validated or verified, trialled by a network of schools, wider research base)?
4. What are the quoted costs of the intervention and does it look from my experience as if there might be any hidden costs or requirements? How does this intervention compare with others that are looking to achieve similar aims? Is it more or less costly? More or less time consuming?
5. How does this evaluation compare with my own experience of these kinds of interventions and those of people I know?
6. Does this evidence come from a school context that is meaningfully similar to mine? Are there some aspects of my context that might mean that it is more/less effective or easier/harder to implement?
7. Were there any non-negotiables or specific circumstances that they identified would have to be in place for this to work e.g. in terms of data collection, cover time or arrangements with other staff?
8. What would it take to implement this intervention well in my context? Do we have adequate systems, resources, and time to make this work? Are there any potential barriers to achievement? Would it be supported by leadership?
9. If I were to implement this, would it replace something else? What would the impact of stopping that other kind of work be?
10. What if it doesn't work? Will I be able to justify having tried?