

## Oak's procurement, licencing and access

### Summary

- An open procurement launches today, with £8m of investment available for schools and education organisations to share and develop curriculum packages to support teachers' workload and curriculum development
- These will be entirely optional, adaptable, free and created independently of DfE. They will start to be released from Sept 2023, with full packages available by Sept 2024
- Alongside our curriculum partners' offers, Oak will host more than 80 other high-quality curriculum sequences, so teachers can choose what's right for them
- Oak will geo-restrict access to our content to users in the UK
- Oak's content will initially be on an open non-commercial UK licence, but we'll assess the evidence on the risks and opportunities of changes up to and including an Open Government Licence.

### Oak's impact - responding to teachers' needs

Under Oak's new remit we focus on supporting teachers and schools with workload and curriculum expertise. We know teachers hugely value this support.

#### [Our recent research with teachers found:](#)

- 32,000 teachers continue to use Oak each week, with 93% planning to continue using
- Oak reduces workload by 3 hours/week for around half of users
- Half of teacher users have increased confidence in curriculum design
- Teachers use Oak to complement their existing curriculum, adapting to their needs
- Teachers use Oak alongside other providers, with only 0.3% using Oak exclusively.

But it also found teachers want more support, specifically they requested:

- High-quality, affordable resources that are easily adaptable
- Access to more curriculum models and to be able to collaborate with subject experts.

### Market engagement and our plans

Since September we have been listening to the needs of teachers, prospective suppliers and the wider sector on our plans. We believe it's vital there's a thriving market providing teachers with brilliant, optional resources. This variety means teachers can pick what's best for their pupils, and those organisations supporting schools are incentivised to innovate and improve quality. Our arrangements have put in place a number of measures to support this.

#### Investment in sharing the best of the market

The procurement will invest £8 million in curriculum materials for schools and teachers. Open to all, it will share and develop resources that draw on existing expertise in the sector, from a diverse range of schools and organisations. This procurement will share curriculum packages

in 12 areas, covering the primary and secondary phases for maths, English, science, history, geography and music. They will start to be released from Sept 2023, with full packages available by Sept 2024. Further subjects are expected in future procurements.

### **Independent, optional, adaptable and free support**

The resources will be entirely optional to use, fully adaptable, free and developed independently of the DfE. Teachers and schools know their pupils best, so should carefully consider what is right for them. We want our offer to be high quality to support teachers, but also so other providers strive to make other offers that are even better.

### **Promoting a variety of offers**

When a teacher comes to Oak in the future, as well as seeing our curriculum partners' sequence, we'll host and promote high-quality offers from other providers, linking to their site if the teacher wants to find out more. We expect this to total more than 80 curriculum models showcased, with teachers able to compare what's best for them.

### **Geo-restricting**

Many organisations that sell curriculum resources in the UK, also sell them overseas. Oak's focus is supporting UK teachers, and we don't want to inadvertently impact any international markets. So we'll restrict access to Oak's content only to those in the UK. This work is starting now and we expect it to be fully in place early in 2023. With DfE approval we will allow specific, short-term international access, at points of crisis (e.g. Ukraine).

### **Licensing**

Oak's new content will be freely available in the UK for any teacher, school or organisation to use, adapt or integrate with their existing offers in a non-commercial way. We've had feedback that it could be beneficial to allow other organisations to use Oak's new content in their products. This could see, for example, publishers using parts of Oak to create textbooks, or Ed-Tech providers integrating Oak's content into their platforms. This, however, needs careful consideration given many organisations have invested heavily in creating their existing resources.

We'll therefore consider the options, along with the opportunities and risks any licensing extension would have for pupils, teachers and the commercial market by reviewing the evidence with the help of an independent and expert organisation. This would be up to and including alignment with the Open Government Licence (OGL). This permits anyone to copy, publish, distribute, transmit and adapt the licensed work for free, and to use it commercially and non-commercially. We expect to have completed reviewing the evidence by early 2023.

### **Open-sourced code and data**

Oak's platform code will be freely available on an open-source MIT licence, allowing other providers to use part or all of it to build or improve their own products. We will similarly openly share our anonymised data with the sector to support insights and learning.

**If you would like any further information on our plans, please contact [Jonathan Dando](#) or [Rosie Bennett](#).**