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The use of technology to support literacy learning in the school environment

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Technology has been used to support learning in the classroom for centuries. Despite many schools having invested in technology to support learning outcomes and prepare pupils for the world of work, recent international research has shown that countries with higher technology use have lower reading scores. However, other studies show that technology may be used effectively to support literacy skills, assessment and pedagogy.

We will present findings from a recent study that we conducted between November 2018 and April 2019, which explores what technology is being used to support literacy in UK primary and secondary school classrooms, and with what impact. We will also look at teachers' attitudes to using technology to support literacy learning and their confidence in using technology, both for their personal use and for their teaching, to help us understand whether their own personal practices facilitate or hinder what they do within the classroom. We will provide a timely and much-needed picture of what is happening in UK schools to offer all teachers and children the opportunity to have exposure to technology in school and in their learning experiences where it is found to benefit.