



The
ANIMATION
CURRICULUM

Phase 2 School Participant Summary

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Overview:

The Animation Curriculum (TAC) is a seven-module, cross-curricular programme that uses storytelling and animation as a framework for delivering education. It is inclusive, multi-sensory, and designed to support all learners, including those with additional needs such as FASD and other forms of neurodiversity.

How it works:

Rather than teaching animation itself, TAC uses seven structured modules (e.g., scriptwriting, storyboarding, sound, editing) as learning interventions. Together, these produce an animated film that showcases students' knowledge alongside skills like teamwork, creativity, organisation, and communication.

Phase 1 (completed 2025):

- Conducted in two mainstream classrooms to test feasibility and engagement.
- Results were highly positive: students (including those with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and Special Educational Needs and Disability) were engaged, enjoyed the activities, and showed pride in their work.
- Teachers found TAC easy to use, inclusive, and effective for delivering existing curriculum content without increasing workload.

Conclusions from Phase 1:

- TAC is a promising, inclusive teaching approach.
- Future research will expand beyond FASD focus to include all students with SEND.
- Progression to a larger feasibility trial (Phase 2 and later Phase 3) is justified.

Phase 2 (Planned):

- A 3-year feasibility trial (pending funding, potentially starting April–July 2026).
- Will involve schools in the UK, Canada, and UAE.
- Uses a controlled trial design to compare TAC with standard teaching methods.
- Aims to refine implementation, assess feasibility for a larger Phase 3 trial, and explore potential effectiveness.

School Participation:

- Suitable for students aged 7–10, including those with SEND (with FASD focus in some regions).
- Teachers commit to training to be completed in their own time and expected to last no more than 8 hours in total, and one academic year of delivery and data generation.
- Schools receive training, ongoing support, and free lifetime access to TAC.

Benefits:

- Engaging, creative learning experience for students.
- Strong inclusion of students with additional needs.
- Professional development and recognition for teachers and schools.
- Opportunities for showcasing student work and contributing to research.

Key takeaway:

TAC is an innovative, inclusive approach to curriculum delivery that has shown strong early results and is moving toward larger-scale testing to confirm its effectiveness.

Further Information:

For more information and to view TAC student films, please visit www.theanimationcurriculum.com. The TAC research team includes Dr Jessica Rutherford and Dr Alan Price, both members of the FASD research team at The University of Salford. To find out more about our work, please visit www.hub.salford.ac.uk/fasd/.

If you have any questions or wish to arrange a meeting with the TAC research team, please email Jessica; j.rutherford1@salford.ac.uk or Alan; a.d.price3@salford.ac.uk.