

HMC Action Research Hub

FAQ

Q: What is action research?

Action research, or practitioner inquiry, is a type of small-scale qualitative research. In classroom settings, this is likely to involve the design of an intervention to improve an aspect of teaching practice. The philosophy of research will be explained fully in an introductory webinar hosted by HMC and presented by the lead practitioner from our academic partner at the *University of Warwick*, on 19 January 2026 at 12noon.

Q: How do I sign up?

You can sign up for the introductory webinar here: [Introduction to HMC's Action Research Hub](#). You can then decide whether or not you wish to take part in the project.

Q: Will the webinar be recorded?

Yes.

Q: Who is the webinar for?

Any teaching staff working in HMC schools, including schools in our international division and our HMCj network, are welcome to register for the launch webinar. Participants will wish to consult with colleagues, including the head of their school, and think about how the project can fit with their timetable. They will also wish to give some thought to an area or topic they would like to research. This is likely to link to a school's development plan or current teaching and learning priorities.

Q: Is any prior knowledge/experience of research required to take part in the project?

No prior knowledge or research experience is required. Participants will receive training in research design, analysis, ethics and evaluation, so the project will provide a professional learning opportunity. This opportunity may also be of interest to those with existing research degrees, as new research questions can be designed based on current teaching practice, with regular opportunities to collaborate with others.

Q: Can schools outside of the HMC network take part, e.g. partnered state schools?

As this first cycle will be operating as a pilot, it will be open to colleagues from HMC schools only. Our intention is to expand the offering following a successful pilot year.

Q: Will the number of participants be limited during the pilot phase of the project?

Any number of interested colleagues can register (free of charge) for the introductory webinar. Thereafter, the first cycle of the project will operate as a pilot, working with up to 25 participants. This will allow for personalised mentoring and careful ongoing evaluation of the project in its initial phase.

Q: Is there a cost to take part in the project?

As part of its 2030 strategy, HMC is seeking to establish a research hub, connecting HMC schools globally, aiming to encourage and share innovation in HMC schools and more widely. There is no charge for participants in the pilot phase.

Q: Who can I contact if I have any general questions about the webinar or Action Research Hub?

Emma Hellyer, Head of Assessment and Innovation, a member of the HMC Education Team, is leading this project. Please contact education@hmc.org.uk with any questions, and Emma will be pleased to discuss with you how the project may work for your school.