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## Research Interests

Allen's research interests include improving learning in schools and research methods. His school based work looks at how to raise attainment for those students from socio-economic disadvantaged backgrounds. He predominantly uses randomized controlled trials (RCTs) and is currently running four-large RCTs on improving literacy levels for students in schools. His pedagogic expertise lies in the area of cooperative/peer learning. He has published extensively in this area.

## Research output

**The birth of neoprofessionalism in the context of neoliberal governmentality: The case of productive university teachers**  
Chiang, T-H., Thurston, A. & Lee, J. C. K., 08 Jun 2020, In : International Journal of Educational Research. p. 1-21 21 p.

**An efficacy randomized controlled trial of Reciprocal Reading in secondary schools**  
Thurston, A., Cockerill, M., Chiang, T-H., Taylor, A. & O'Keeffe, J., 03 Jun 2020, (Accepted) In : International Journal of Educational Research. p. 1-27 27 p.

**The influence of social relationships on outcomes in mathematics when using peer tutoring in elementary school**  
Thurston, A., Roseth, C., Burns, V. & Topping, K., 03 Jun 2020, (Accepted) In : International Journal of Educational Research Open. 100004.

**An efficacy randomized controlled trial of Reciprocal Reading in secondary schools: Scientific report**  
Thurston, A., Cockerill, M., Taylor, A., Chiang, T-H. & O'Keeffe, J., 01 Jun 2020

**Protocol: An efficacy randomized controlled trial of a Vocabulary program in primary schools**  
Cockerill, M., Thurston, A. & Taylor, A., 23 Jan 2020, In : International Journal of Educational Research. 9 p., 101511.

**How the excellent working-class student becomes a cultural capital constructor: Reflections on the theories of cultural reproduction**  
Chiang, T-H., Thurston, A. & Lin, H-C., 2020, In : International Journal of Educational Research. 103, 26 p., 101625.

**A randomized controlled efficacy trial of a smoking prevention programme with Grade 8 students in high schools**  
Thurston, A., Dunne, L., Kee, F., Gildea, A., Craig, N., Stark, P. & Lazenbatt, A., Oct 2019, In : International Journal of Educational Research. 93, p. 23-32 10 p.

**The importance of social environment in preventing smoking: an analysis of the Dead Cool intervention.**  
Badham, J., McAneney, H., Dunne, L., Kee, F., Thurston, A. & Hunter, R. F., 28 Aug 2019, In : BMC Public Health. 19, 7 p., 1182.

**Protocol: An efficacy randomized controlled trial of a spelling program in primary schools**  
Cockerill, M., Thurston, A. & Taylor, A., 15 Aug 2019, In : International Journal of Educational Research. 97, p. 131-138 8 p.

**Protocol: An efficacy randomized controlled trial of Reciprocal Reading in high schools**  
Cockerill, M., Thurston, A. & Taylor, A., 25 Jul 2019, In : International Journal of Educational Research. 97, p. 99-106 8 p.

**The influence of socio-economic background and gender on school attainment in the United Kingdom: A systematic review.**

Early, E., Miller, S., Dunne, L., Thurston, A. & Filiz, M., 21 Jun 2019, In : Review of Education.

**Using cooperative learning to close the reading attainment gap for students with low literacy levels for Grade 8/Year 9 students**

Thurston, A., Cockerill, M. & Craig, N., 12 Mar 2019, In : International Journal of Educational Research. 94, 10 p.

**Using cooperative learning in reading to promote academic talk with students aged 12-16 years old**

Thurston, A. & Cockerill, M., 01 Jan 2019, *Promoting academic talk in schools: Global practices and perspectives*. Gillies, R. (ed.). Routledge, p. 98-111 14 p.

**End of Award Report for a Randomized Controlled Trial of Functional Family Therapy: An Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) Partnership between Croydon Council and Queen's University Belfast**

Thurston, A., Miller, S., Dunne, L. & Gildea, A., 08 Nov 2018, 12 p. Queens University Belfast.

**The teaching of KS1/2 maths in Irish-medium settings: barriers and opportunities**

MacKenzie, A., Thurston, A., O'Keeffe, J. & O'Neill, N., Sep 2018, Queen's University Belfast. 42 p.

**A population-based data-linkage study of prescribed pain medications dispensed to persons with cerebral palsy**

Garcia Jalon, G., Maguire, A., Perra, O., Gavin, A., O'Reilly, D. & Thurston, A., 13 Jun 2018, In : International Journal of Population Data Science. 3, 2

**Zippy's Friends Evaluation report and executive summary**

Sloan, S., Gildea, A., Miller, S. & Thurston, A., May 2018

**Pain medication dispensed for persons with cerebral palsy: a population-based data-linkage study**

Garcia Jalon, E., Maguire, A., Perra, O., Kerr, C., Gavin, A., O'Reilly, D. & Thurston, A., Mar 2018, p. 30. 1 p.

**Peer Tutoring Manual (2018)**

Thurston, A. & Cockerill, M., Mar 2018, 6th ed. Queen's University Belfast. 44 p.

**Teacher Perceptions of the Impact of Peer Learning in their Classrooms: Using Social Interdependence Theory as a Model for Data Analysis and Presentation**

Cockerill, M., Craig, N. & Thurston, A., 15 Jan 2018, In : International Journal of Education and Practice. 6, 1, p. 14-27 14 p.

**Video-based interventions for promoting positive social behaviour in children with autism spectrum disorders: a systematic review and meta-analysis.**

Keenan, C., Thurston, A. & Storey, C., 2018, (In preparation) The Campbell Collaboration.

**Using Spaced Learning for Secondary Science Exam Revision: A Design and Feasibility Study of the SMART Spaces Programme**

O'Hare, L., Stark, P., McGuinness, C., Thurston, A., Biggart, A. & Gittner, A., 01 Nov 2017, *ICERI2017 Proceedings: 10th Annual International Conference of Education, Research and Innovation Seville, Spain*. IATED, p. 1573 1 p.

**Protocol: A feasibility study and a pilot cluster randomised controlled trial of the PAX 'Good Behaviour Game' in disadvantaged schools**

O'Keeffe, J., Thurston, A., Kee, F., O'Hare, L. & Lloyd, K., 27 Sep 2017, In : International Journal of Educational Research. 86, p. 78-86 9 p.

**Whole Child Development Mapping Project in Western Europe and North America: The UK (2)**

MacKenzie, A., O'Keeffe, J. & Thurston, A., 15 Sep 2017, Queen's University Belfast. 11 p.

**Whole Child Development Mapping Project in Western Europe and North America: The UK (1)**

MacKenzie, A., O'Keeffe, J. & Thurston, A., 11 Jul 2017, Queen's University Belfast. 14 p.

### **Using Randomised Controlled Trials in Education**

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### **Evaluation of Cancer Focus Northern Ireland's 'Dead Cool' smoking prevention programme in Northern Ireland post-primary schools**

Thurston, A., Dunne, L., Kee, F., Gildea, A., Craig, N. & Stark, P., 25 May 2017, 1 p.

### **Video-based interventions for promoting positive social behaviour in children with autism spectrum disorders: a systematic review and meta-analysis**

Keenan, C., Thurston, A. & Urbanska, K., 03 Apr 2017, The Campbell Collaboration 19 p.

### **Spaced Learning: The Design, Feasibility and Optimisation of SMART Spaces**

O'Hare, L., Stark, P., McGuinness, C., Biggart, A. & Thurston, A., Mar 2017, Education Endowment Foundation.

### **Economic Opportunities, Occupational Class Status and Social Mobility in Northern Ireland: Linked Census Data from the Northern Ireland Longitudinal Study (NILS)**

Moriarty, J., Wright, D., O'Reilly, D. & Thurston, A., Feb 2017

### **Evaluation of Zippy's Friends for improving socio-emotional and academic outcomes in 6-7 year olds: Protocol for a cluster randomised controlled trial and process evaluation**

Sloan, S., Gildea, A., Miller, S., Poulton, L., Egar, C. & Thurston, A., 2017, In : International Journal of Educational Research. 82, p. 200-209

### **How a Concept Map-based Self-regulated Learning Tool Can Be Used In Statistics Education: A Case Using ANOVA**

Filiz, M., Thurston, A. & Miller, S., 2017, (Accepted).

### **Scoping systematic review on the extent, nature and quality of evidence underlying ophthalmic and paraophthalmic education**

Williams, M., Boohan, M. & Thurston, A., 2017, In : Evidence-based medicine. 22, 1, p. 23-26 4 p.

### **Protocol: A randomised controlled trial evaluation of Cancer Focus NI's 'Dead Cool' smoking prevention programme in post-primary schools**

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### **Peer tutoring: Cross-age Paired Reading**

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### **Texting Parents: Evaluation Report and Executive Summary**

Miller, S., Davison, J., Sloan, S., Gildea, A. & Thurston, A., 14 Jul 2016, Education Endowment Foundation. 81 p.

### **Talk of the Town: Evaluation Report and Executive Summary**

Thurston, A., Roseth, C., O'Hare, L., Davison, J. & Stark, P., May 2016, Education Endowment Foundation. 72 p.

### **Cross-age tutoring in kindergarten and elementary school settings: A systematic review and meta-analysis**

Shenderovich, Y., Thurston, A. & Miller, S., 01 Mar 2016, In : International Journal of Educational Research. 76, p. 190-210 21 p.

### **The influence of experimental design on the magnitude of the effect size -peer tutoring for elementary, middle and high school settings: A meta-analysis**

Zeneli, M., Thurston, A. & Roseth, C., 21 Jan 2016, In : International Journal of Educational Research. 13 p.

**Aportaciones de un estudio etnográfico sobre la participación de las familias a la formación crítica del profesorado en una escuela inclusiva**

Vigo Arrazola, B., Diestre Gracia, B. & Thurston, A., 15 Jan 2016, In : Revista Electrónica Interuniversitaria de Formación del Profesorado. 19, 1, p. 1-14 14 p.

**A Randomised Controlled Trial Evaluation of Cancer Focus Northern Ireland's 'Dead Cool' smoking prevention programme in Northern Ireland post-primary schools**

Thurston, A., Dunne, L., Kee, F., Gildea, A., Lazenbatt, A., Craig, N. & Stark, P., Dec 2015, HSC R&D, Public Health Agency, Northern Ireland. 36 p.

**Reciprocal Peer Tutoring in Irish Medium Schools**

Thurston, A. & Thurston, C., Jun 2015, Belfast: Queen's University Belfast. 12 p.

**What Went Wrong With the Mate-Tricks After-School Program, Which Increased Antisocial Behavior and Child/Parent Conflict?**

O'Hare, L., Biggart, A., Kerr, K. M., Connolly, P. & Thurston, A., 17 Apr 2015.

**Physically Active Lessons: Evaluation Report**

Miller, S., Gildea, A., Sloan, S. & Thurston, A., Mar 2015, Belfast: The Centre for Effective Education. 47 p.

**Interventions for Improving Pedagogic Outcomes in Ophthalmology and Paraophthalmic Education: a scoping systematic review.**

Williams, M., Boohan, M. & Thurston, A., 20 Feb 2015.

**Peer assisted learning in health education.**

Thurston, A., Feb 2015, *Evidence-based Education in the Health Professions: Promoting best practice in the learning and teaching of students*. London: Radcliffe, p. 251-274 23 p.

**Improving Fidelity to Treatment During Randomised Controlled Trials in Schools by Engaging Teachers in the Design Process during a Developmental Study**

Cockerill, M. & Thurston, A., 2015, *Collaborative Learning: Developments in Research and Practice*. Gillies, R. M. (ed.). Nova Science Publishers, Inc.

**Research Protocol: A Randomized Controlled Trial of Functional Family Therapy: An Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) Partnership between Croydon Council and Queen's University Belfast**

Thurston, A., Miller, S., Dunne, L., Lazenbatt, A., Gildea, A., Stepien, D. & Tapsell, D., 2015, In : International Journal of Educational Research. 70, p. 47-56 10 p.

**A Pilot Study of Reciprocal Peer Tutoring in Irish Medium Schools**

Thurston, A. & Keenan, C., 01 Nov 2014, Belfast: Queen's University Belfast. 12 p.

**Experimental Evaluations of Elementary Science Programs: A Best-Evidence Synthesis**

Slavin, R. E., Lake, C., Hanley, P. & Thurston, A., Sep 2014, In : Journal of Research in Science Teaching. 51, 7, p. 870-901 32 p.

**Improving Reading and Math Achievement Across a Whole District**

Thurston, A., Tymms, P., Merrell, C. & Conlin, N., Jul 2014, *Proven Programs in Education: Classroom Management and Assessment*. Corwin, p. 116 120 p. 5

**Using Cooperative Learning to Engage Students in Science**

Thurston, A., Jul 2014, *Proven Programs in Education: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics*. Slavin, R. E. (ed.). Corwin, p. 79-82 4 p.

**Cross-age tutoring in kindergarten and elementary school settings: a systematic review and meta-analysis**  
Shenderovich, Y., Thurston, A. & Miller, S., 16 Jun 2014.

**Meta-analysis of the influence of experimental design on effect size in peer tutoring outcomes in elementary, middle and high school settings.**

Thurston, A., Zeneli, M., Roseth, C. J. & Miller, S., 05 Apr 2014, (Unpublished).

**Disability, power and equality in the school**

Thurston, A., 2014, In : International Journal of Disability, Development and Education. 61, 2, p. 105-107 3 p.

**The potential impact of undiagnosed vision impairment on reading development in the early years of school**

Thurston, A., 2014, In : International Journal of Disability, Development and Education. 61, 2, p. 152-164

**Counselling for sight loss: Using systematic case study research to build a client informed practice model**

Thurston, M., McLeod, J. & Thurston, A., May 2013, In : British Journal of Visual Impairment. 31, 2, p. 102-122 21 p.

**Risks to patient confidentiality when communicating health information to blind and partially sighted patients.**

Thurston, A. & Thurston, M., 2013, In : Disability, CBR & Inclusive Development. 24, 1, p. 22-40 18 p., 24(1).

**Outcomes and process in reading tutoring**

Topping, K. J., Thurston, A., McGavock, K. & Conlin, N., 01 Sep 2012, In : Educational Research. 54, 3, p. 239-258 20 p.

**Improving attainment across a whole district: school reform through peer tutoring in a randomized controlled trial**

Tymms, P., Merrell, C., Thurston, A., Andor, J., Topping, K. & Miller, D., Sep 2011, In : School Effectiveness and School Improvement. 22, 3, p. 265-289 15 p.

**Cooperative learning in science: Intervention in the secondary school**

Topping, K. J., Thurston, A., Tolmie, A., Christie, D., Murray, P. & Karagiannidou, E., 01 Apr 2011, In : Research in Science and Technological Education. 29, 1, p. 91-106 16 p.

**Peer tutoring in reading in Scotland: Thinking big**

Topping, K., Miller, D., Thurston, A., McGavock, K. & Conlin, N., 01 Apr 2011, In : Literacy. 45, 1, p. 3-9 7 p.

**Social effects of collaborative learning in primary schools**

Tolmie, A. K., Topping, K. J., Christie, D., Donaldson, C., Howe, C., Jessiman, E., Livingston, K. & Thurston, A., Jun 2010, In : Learning and Instruction. 20, 3, p. 177-191 15 p.

**Tutoría entre iguales recíproca y virtual para la mejora de habilidades lingüísticas en español e inglés**

Duran, D., Blanch, S., Thurston, A. & Topping, K., 01 May 2010, In : Infancia y Aprendizaje. 33, 2, p. 209-222 14 p.

**Cooperative Learning in Science: Follow-up from primary to high school**

Thurston, A., Topping, K. J., Tolmie, A., Christie, D., Karagiannidou, E. & Murray, P., Mar 2010, In : International Journal of Science Education. 32, 4, p. 501-522 22 p.

**Peer tutoring in reading: The effects of role and organization on two dimensions of self-esteem**

Miller, D., Topping, K. & Thurston, A., 2010, In : British Journal of Educational Psychology. 80, 3, p. 417-433 17 p.

**Socio-emotional effects of the transition from sight to blindness,**

Thurston, M., Thurston, A. & McLeod, J., 2010, In : British Journal of Visual Impairment. 28, 2, p. 1-23 23 p.

### **International on-line reciprocal peer tutoring to promote modern language development in primary schools**

Thurston, A., Duran, D., Cunningham, E., Blanch, S. & Topping, K., Sep 2009, In : Journal of Computers and Education. 53, 2, p. 462-472 11 p.

### **Supporting group work in Scottish primary classrooms: Improving the quality of collaborative dialogue**

Christie, D., Tolmie, A., Thurston, A., Howe, C. & Topping, K., 01 Mar 2009, In : Cambridge Journal of Education. 39, 1, p. 141-156 16 p.

### **A randomized trial of paired tutoring in elementary schools: effects on self-esteem**

Miller, D., Topping, K. & Thurston, A., 01 Jan 2009, In : Procedia - Social and Behavioral Sciences. 1, 1, p. 1645-1647 3 p.

### **Effects of continuing professional development on group work practices in Scottish primary schools**

Thurston, A., Christie, D., Howe, C. J., Tolmie, A. & Topping, K. J., 01 Jan 2008, In : Journal of In-service Education. 34, 3, p. 263-282 20 p.

### **Effects of group work training on science attainment in rural and urban schools**

Thurston, A., Topping, K. J., Christie, D., Donaldson, C., Howe, C. J., Jessiman, E., Livingston, K. & Tolmie, A., 01 Jan 2008, In : Research in Science and Technological Education. 26, 1, p. 31-45 15 p.

### **Group work in elementary science: Towards organisational principles for supporting pupil learning**

Howe, C., Tolmie, A., Thurston, A., Topping, K., Christie, D., Livingston, K., Jessiman, E. & Donaldson, C., 01 Oct 2007, In : Learning and Instruction. 17, 5, p. 549-563 15 p.

### **Promoting multicultural education in the primary classroom: Broadband videoconferencing facilities and digital video**

Thurston, A., 01 Aug 2004, In : Journal of Computers and Education. 43, 1-2 SPEC ISS., p. 165-177 13 p.

## **Projects**

### **R1448EDU: A RCT of functional family therapy**

Thurston, A., Dunne, L., Lazenbatt, A. & Miller, S.  
25/11/2014 → 30/11/2017

### **R2456SES: Cluster RCT of SMART Spaces**

O'Hare, L., Cockerill, M., Stark, P. & Thurston, A.  
02/08/2018 → ...

### **R3026SES: Developing sustainable international partnerships for cost-effective evidence based education and social innovation in Brazil**

Cockerill, M., Schubotz, D. & Thurston, A.  
29/01/2019 → 23/12/2019

### **R2280EDU: Early Intervention in Literacy**

Thurston, A. & Craig, N.  
07/04/2016 → ...

### **R2192EDU: Engaging parents through text messaging**

Miller, S., Gildea, A., Sloan, S. & Thurston, A.  
17/02/2015 → 31/05/2016

### **R2296EDU: Evaluation of Zippy's Friends**

Miller, S., Gildea, A. & Thurston, A.  
03/05/2016 → ...

**R2437EDU: Lexia Literacy**

Thurston, A. & Craig, N.

27/11/2017 → ...

**R1358CPH: LNIK - the Northern Ireland Administrative Data Research Centre**

O'Reilly, D., Donnelly, M., Hong, J., Kee, F., Kouvonon, A., Liu, W., Shuttleworth, I. & Thurston, A.

01/08/2013 → 30/09/2018

**R8857SES: Mapping Child Development across Western Europe**

MacKenzie, A. & Thurston, A.

08/05/2017 → 20/12/2018

**R2999EDU: Peer Tutoring In Secondary Schools**

Thurston, A.

01/08/2012 → ...

**R2108EDU: Physically Active Lessons: A Feasibility Study**

Miller, S., Gildea, A., Sloan, S. & Thurston, A.

06/06/2014 → ...

**R2045EDU: Spaced Learning EEF**

O'Hare, L., Biggart, A., McGuinness, C. & Thurston, A.

27/03/2015 → 28/02/2017

**R2988EDU: Talk of the Town (The Communication Trust)**

Thurston, A. & O'Hare, L.

20/06/2013 → 31/10/2015

## Awards

### Activities

**Using cooperative learning to enhance outcomes for students from low socio-economic backgrounds**

Allen Thurston (Advisor)

28 Jun 2019

**Improving literacy for school students from high poverty backgrounds using peer learning**

Allen Thurston (Advisor)

27 Jun 2019

**Using cooperative learning to enhance outcomes for students from low socio-economic backgrounds**

Allen Thurston (Advisor)

23 Jun 2019

**How to improve your productivity when publishing journal articles**

Allen Thurston (Advisor)

18 Jun 2019

**Using peer support to improve international publications**

Allen Thurston (Advisor)

17 Jun 2019

**American Education Research Association, Conference 2019**

Maria Cockerill (Participant), & Allen Thurston (Participant)

07 Apr 2019

**Using peer tutoring to improve reading**

Allen Thurston (Advisor)  
26 Oct 2018

**Using peer tutoring to improve reading for low-socioeconomic students**

Allen Thurston (Advisor)  
26 Oct 2018

**Improving outcomes for students in school using research evidence**

Allen Thurston (Advisor)  
25 Oct 2018

**American Education Research Association, Conference 2018**

Maria Cockerill (Participant), & Allen Thurston (Participant)  
15 Apr 2018

**Whole Child Development Workshop: Findings from the UK**

Alison MacKenzie (Presenter), & Allen Thurston (Presenter)  
10 Jul 2017

**Failing to see the problem: Vision and reading**

Allen Thurston (Advisor)  
30 Jun 2017

**Research and practice of using peer tutoring in schools to promote student reading development**

Allen Thurston (Advisor)  
23 Jun 2017

**Using peer tutoring to improve reading**

Allen Thurston (Advisor)  
16 Jun 2017

**Next steps for raising attainment: leadership, school autonomy and improving standards in the classroom**

Allen Thurston (Advisor), & Liam O'Hare (Invited speaker)  
15 Jun 2017

**Zhengzhou University, China**

Allen Thurston (Advisor)  
01 Mar 2017 → 28 Feb 2020

**Stormont Assembly Knowledge Exchange Seminar - Economic Opportunities, Occupational Class Status and Social Mobility in Northern Ireland:**

John Moriarty (Invited speaker), , David Wright (Contributor), , Dermot O'Reilly (Contributor), & Allen Thurston (Contributor)  
25 Jan 2017

**Council for Curriculum Examinations & Assessment**

Allen Thurston (Presenter)  
01 Sep 2016

**American Education Research Association, 2016**

Allen Thurston (Participant), & Maria Cockerill (Participant)  
09 Apr 2016



**ESRC Festival of Social Science event on 'Dead Cool'**

Allen Thurston (Presenter)

14 Nov 2015

**International Journal of Educational Research (Journal)**

Allen Thurston (Peer reviewer)

01 Jan 2012 → 31 Dec 2020

**Times Educational Supplement**

Allen Thurston (Presenter)

2011 → 2014