

New Headteacher leads school from ‘Requires Improvement’ to ‘Good’ in ten months

When Paul Stock became Headteacher in September 2016, Rushmere Hall Primary School’s Ofsted category was ‘Requires Improvement’. Within 10 months, Ofsted rated it ‘Good’. They flagged Paul’s unwavering resolution to improve the school and the high expectations that teachers have of all children.

Leadership priorities

“Before I started, there had been three interim Heads in the previous year. The school needed drive and clear leadership to address the issues raised by Ofsted. Phonics teaching was inconsistent and lacked regular assessment. It had been highlighted as an urgent need. I chose *Read Write Inc.* Phonics and arranged training as a priority.

Impact of the programme and training

“We implemented the programme in February 2017 and progress was astounding. We set up one-to-one tuition for the slowest progress children and every one of them passed the Phonics Screening Check. Every member of staff is on board – all teach with fidelity.

“Our Year 1 children are starting this September in a strong position. The transition from Reception is easier – we find our children can sit and concentrate more readily. Established behaviour management strategies mean they are keen and ready to learn.

“During the Phonics Screening Check this year,

Year	National PSC Average	School PSC Average
2014	74%	70%
2015	77%	74%
2016	81%	62%
2017	81%	85%

School Name: **Rushmere Hall Primary School**

Location: **Ipswich**

EAL: **13.9%**

Free school meals: **24.3%**

Pupils on roll: **650**

Age range: **3 - 11**

Ofsted: **Good**

Teaching Assistants stood outside the room desperate to hear what the children in their groups had achieved. The staff are proud of our children.

“Training has an impact on all teaching – including Key Stage 2. Lessons are snappy, pacy and sharp. There is no downtime and children are engaged.

The Reading Leader role

“Our Reading Leader (RL) is always available during lessons to support reading teachers and Teaching Assistants. She carries out informal learning walks and ‘steps in’ to help rather than just telling staff what to do. This is modelled by our Consultant Trainer when he works with us. Our RL is also available before school to answer questions and be a positive and encouraging presence.

No barriers to learning

“In our school there are no excuses, no reasons not to teach the programme every day. Our Reception children love *Read Write Inc.* Phonics. Lessons happen every day right up until the last day of term!

Ofsted

“The inspectors were impressed by the quality of teaching and could not tell the difference between teachers, Teaching Assistants and NQTs in our literacy lessons!”