

Small Bedfordshire school achieves 100% in phonics screening check

St George's Lower School

Leighton Buzzard, Central Bedfordshire, UK

St George's Lower School is located in an area of Leighton Buzzard where over a third of children come from deprived households: 46% of pupils are eligible for free school meals. In 2013, the school scored only 33% in its Phonics Screening Check (the borough average was 68%). Since adopting the *Read Write Inc.* Phonics programme, their scores have improved dramatically over three years, achieving a staggering 100% in 2015.

Year	Central Bedfordshire Average	St George's Lower School
2013	68%	33%
2014	72%	77%
2015	77%	100%
2016	81%	89%
2017	83%	100%

St George's Lower School PSC results compared to Central Bedfordshire Average

St George's have set a benchmark for other schools in the area to follow. In their most recent Ofsted inspection, St George's went from Requires Improvement to Good. The headteacher, Marea Rawlings, is proud of the improvements: "The lead Ofsted inspector said that he wished all the schools he visited had the profile of improvement that St. George's had."

St George's chose to use their pupil premium funding towards *Read Write Inc.* Phonics training and regular Development Days.

Andrew Selous, MP, tweeted, "Visited St George's Lower School in Leighton Buzzard & saw fantastic phonics teaching, helping the children read."

St George's has been awarded *Read Write Inc.* Model School status for their achievements and continues to strive for improvement.

Assistant headteacher, Ted Edwards stated "Our success comes from all staff teaching with fidelity and being 100% committed to the programme."



LA: **Central Bedfordshire**
 Age Group: **4 - 9**
 Pupils on roll: **93**
 Catchment: **Suburban**

"Local schools should come and see St George's outstanding progress and the fun and creative learning environment they have created."

Sarabjit Kaur,
 Consultant Trainer

"The support from Ruth Miskin Training has enabled all staff to lead one to one tutoring – all children have made progress. We have had a call from the local MP to congratulate us."

Marea Rawlings, Headteacher