

Phonics Screening Check: 73% to 100% in one year

We spoke to Sarah Joyce, Headteacher at London Colney Primary & Nursery School.

When I joined in September 2016, London Colney was Ofsted 'Requires Improvement' and only 73% of pupils passed the Phonics Screening Check (PSC). The boys performed particularly poorly - just over half passed. It was clear something needed to change.

I had worked in a *Read Write Inc.* school before and knew it worked. I needed to make sure there was consistency across the school, with all teachers and teaching assistants on the same page. All staff received training and have a solid foundation – there is a common understanding across the school. We have a whole-school approach to teaching literacy, which is vital.

We use four *Read Write Inc.* programmes – Phonics, Fresh Start, Spelling and Literacy and Language, and we use the behaviour strategies across the curriculum. Every lesson is paced correctly, and the lesson plans are in-depth and give every teacher and teaching assistant excellent subject knowledge while reducing workload.

Everything about *Read Write Inc.* is supportive. Children understand the

School Name: **London Colney Primary & Nursery School**

Location: **Hertfordshire**

EAL: **71%**

Free school meals: **32%**

Pupils on roll: **168**

Age range: **3-11**



structure of the programme and know where they are and what they need to do to improve. Staff are nurtured by the frequent trainings and Development Days. Our Consultant Trainers are so positive and lead passionately. Support doesn't end at the school gates – we hold weekly workshops for parents where we show them ways to help their children, as well as the wealth of resources on the Ruth Miskin Training website. Our fantastic results are a testament to all that support.

Year	National PSC Average	School PSC Average	Boys	Girls	Free School Meals
2015	77%	40%	36%	50%	50%
2016	81%	73%	56%	85%	75%
2017	81%	100%	100%	100%	100%