

Case Study

Palmerston Primary School, Glamorgan: A Read Write Inc. Model School

Palmerston Primary School is a Read Write Inc. Model School in the Vale of Glamorgan. They received Double Excellent in their 2016 Estyn report.

"Standards of reading are consistently good across the school. Younger pupils read very well for their age...and make good use of their knowledge of phonics to read unfamiliar words... Standards of writing are very good. By the end of the Foundation Phase, many pupils write in full sentences using accurate punctuation. They make very good use of the skills learned in their reading lessons to spell complex words," (Estyn, p.5).

We spoke to Katy Edwards, Reading Leader at Palmerston. She said: "We were looking to ensure progression and consistency in literacy teaching across the school. Even though our teachers were confident and experienced, we wanted a programme that would tap in to the potential of every member of staff including our Learning Support Assistants.

"We live and breathe our mission statement – together we will succeed."

Tell us about...

Training and ongoing

Professional Development

We received high quality training that balanced theoretical and practical advice throughout. Sessions were interactive and there were plenty of opportunities to practise new skills.

Regular Development Days from our consultant trainer keep the momentum of self-evaluation and school improvement going - they provide support for all staff. Book scrutiny, lesson observations and practice sessions allow opportunities for sharing good practice and keeping all staff up to date with current excellent practice. They work well alongside



School Name: **Palmerston Primary School**

Town: **Barry**

Number of pupils: **217**

Age range: **3-11**

Estyn Rating: **Double Excellent**

Free School Meals: **18%**

Additional Learning Needs: **20%**

Additional facilities: Resource base for pupils with complex physical and medical disabilities. These pupils are fully integrated with mainstream pupils.

"The school is an outstandingly supportive and vibrant community." (Estyn, p.9)

Year	Foundation Phase	Foundation Phase	Year 6	Year 6	Year 6
	Outcome 5+	Outcome 6+	Achieving NCL 4+	Achieving NCL 5+	Achieving NCL 6+
2013	87%	30%	85%	25%	-
2014	100%	35%	90%	50%	-
2015	92%	37%	95%	33%	-
2016	93%	30%	96%	39%	8%

our school priorities, which include marking and feedback. We set the agenda and can ask for a specific focus to suit our needs.

Training and development days have complimented what we already do at Palmerston Primary and work well alongside our culture of ongoing professional improvement. The school has a monthly programme to develop teaching through peer observation – we trust each other and are receptive to observation and feedback during Development Days.

Tell us about the role of the Reading Leader

Our core purpose as a school is to teach children to read. The Reading Leader supports teachers daily to improve their practice, assesses the children regularly and uses this information to ensure that every child makes the best progress possible. The Reading Leader's role is to ensure that all children learn to read as quickly as possible and that no child is left behind.

Support for your most vulnerable readers

We use our Development Days to carry out a forensic analysis of our data, identifying vulnerable groups of learners that need extra provision to keep up with their peers. This is done through an open and honest dialogue where everyone works together to ensure that time and resources are prioritised for these children.

We provide regular workshops for parents to help them help their child with reading at home.

Parents are enthusiastic and attitudes towards reading have improved greatly.

The children are also enthusiastic about the Phonics and Literacy and Language lessons. They love the colourful texts and the interactive activities using ICT. Sessions are varied and provide lots of opportunities for pupils to discuss ideas together before they record their work.

Pupils love the stories and the teachers' enthusiasm when delivering lessons.

What would you say to other schools?

Read Write Inc. Phonics and Literacy and Language have provided us with a progressive programme that ensures consistency across the school. Passionate and enthusiastic teaching coupled with a commitment to the programme has ensured its success! Regular Development Days have helped keep a sense of purpose. Providing a focus on fine tuning specific elements during practice sessions help staff at all levels develop their skills.

Above all else, Palmerston whole-heartedly believes that it's not what you do, but it's the way that you do it! Success is a continuous journey, not a destination.

I feel very privileged to work with such an amazing team at Palmerston who really do the programme justice! And furthermore, our trainer is a part of this team too - her role has been extremely influential.

Estyn were particularly impressed by the level of vocabulary, which they have referenced in the report. This is due to both Phonics and Literacy and Language. They really were blown away.

*Palmerston Primary School is a Model School. You can arrange to visit the school by calling **01446 747 393**.*