

“It is a joy to do the Phonics Screening Check!”

We spoke to Headteacher, Deb Halliday, and *Read Write Inc.* Leader, Lisa Watson, at Athelstan Primary School in Sheffield.

Why did you choose *Read Write Inc.* Phonics?

“Deb observed *Read Write Inc.* lessons at a nearby school and was impressed by the children’s literacy skills. Lisa taught at a *Read Write Inc.* school and had seen how successful it could be.

The training

“The training is thorough and inspiring. We are continually having further training and Development Days to ensure our staff are up-to-date and enthused about the programme. This is crucial – we don’t know where we would be without the exceptional Continuing Professional Development offered by Ruth Miskin Training, particularly for our Teaching Assistants, who previously had had little access to CPD. Since the introduction of *Read Write Inc.* our teacher and TA retention rate is improving year on year.

The role of the Reading Leader

“Lisa does not teach her own group, so is able to fully commit to the programme. Every day she coaches staff and supports them in their lessons. Lisa’s enthusiasm for *Read Write Inc.* has really filtered down the school to the staff and children. Our standards continue to rise. Positivity breeds positivity and the expert leadership that Lisa gives is invaluable. Ofsted have commented on our expertise in phonics teaching and our sharing of this practice with other professionals.

The children and parents

“The children thoroughly enjoy their phonics lessons.

School Name: **Athelstan Primary School**

Location: **Sheffield**

Free school meals: **25%**

Pupils on roll: **572**

Age range: **4-11**

Ofsted rating: **Good**

It is never a chore for them. We involve parents and hold *Read Write Inc.* meetings, including Speed Sound lessons for the parents to watch and sessions where children ‘teach’ their parents to read. One parent said ‘my daughter’s reading has come on in leaps and bounds. I am impressed by the level of books she can read and understand.’

“One child joined us half-way through Reception, with English as an Additional Language. He had never been to school before and had no knowledge of sounds. After two years, he is now reading with fluency and expression and flew through the Phonics Screening Check. He even starred in our own sound pronunciation video guide. It’s lovely to see.

The Phonics Screening Check

“It is a joy to do the Phonics Screening Check! Our results have increased and the gap between girls and boys and between children on Free School Meals and those not has narrowed.

What would you say to other schools?

“We always recommend *Read Write Inc.* Phonics! It works. We understand it is an investment but you can’t argue with the results. The initial two days are vital – don’t even attempt to do it without the training. Take it step-by-step, teach with fidelity and you will see the fruits of your labour. Our children and staff are flourishing.”

Year	National PSC Average	School PSC Average	Boys	Girls	Free School Meals
2013	69%	59%	62%	56%	39%
2014	74%	71%	67%	80%	73%
2015	77%	77%	66%	90%	71%
2016	81%	85%	84%	85%	78%
2017	81%	88%	86%	90%	82%