

Severn Primary School, Cardiff: A Read Write Inc. Model School

Severn Primary School was recently cited in The Chief Inspector's Annual Report as an example of excellence.

Meilyr Rowlands, Chief School Inspector for Wales, praised the school: "Senior leaders have developed excellent teamwork within the school, through strong lines of communication, a common vision and sharing good practice. Staff feel empowered and motivated to be innovative, to challenge current practice and to reflect on how best to improve teaching within the school. This has led to high-quality teaching throughout the school." [Click here to see a news article featuring Severn Primary School on ITV.](#)

We talked to Julie Morris, the Headteacher.

Why Read Write Inc. programmes?

We chose to invest in Read Write Inc. programmes to improve standards. We wanted a whole-school approach to literacy teaching. Our school has a high percentage of pupils who speak English as an Additional Language and high pupil mobility. We wanted a programme that would address their specific needs and we found it in Read Write Inc.

Professional development - training for the whole staff and half-termly Development Days

Estyn said, "the arrangements for professional development are excellent and result in innovative approaches to learning and teaching." ([p.11, A report on Severn Primary School, May 2016](#))



School Name: Severn Primary School

Town: Cardiff

Number of pupils: 407
(+ 146 nursery pupils)

Age range: 3-11

Estyn Rating: Double Excellent

Free School Meals: 24%

Pupils with EAL: 76%

Additional Learning Needs: 25%

The training has always been excellent. Our trainer has worked closely with the SLT to understand the unique nature of our school. This knowledge enables her to give us excellent support.

The training days are very well organised and delivered passionately. They have clear objectives, are well paced and

give ample opportunities for staff to get involved.

Half-termly Development Days have enabled us to ensure a consistent approach throughout the school, which has impacted on both teaching standards and pupil outcomes.

Our trainer supports our Reading Leaders with data analysis - tracking the data shows continually improving standards.

During the Development Days, the trainer carries out Learning Walks with the Reading Leaders so together they can observe and share good practice. Any areas that need improvement are targeted for tutoring sessions. Our trainer provides practice sessions for individual or groups of staff which enable all staff to develop their confidence.

Tell us about the role of the Reading Leader

Our two new Reading Leaders have been extremely well supported by our trainer and have grown in confidence. The Reading Leaders have organized the phonic sessions to ensure all children are in appropriate groups and at their appropriate stage of learning. They regularly assess the children ensuring they are progressing and plan one-to-one catch up sessions for those who need additional support. This approach is having a very positive impact on standards.

Could you summarise the impact Read Write Inc. has had?

Read Write Inc. Phonics has had a huge impact on the literacy standards within our school. Its whole school approach has particularly suited the diverse nature of our community and promoted excellent team work amongst our staff. It has provided a wide range of professional learning opportunities for all of our staff and helped to raise the profile of teaching assistants in our school.

"The school's high quality provision for developing literacy and communication skills is a result of the rigorous training of teachers and support staff, regular, robust monitoring of teaching and learning and highly effective tracking of pupils' progress." ([p.10, Estyn, A report on Severn Primary School, May 2016](#))

How have pupils reacted to Read Write Inc. Phonics?

Amir said, "Read Write Inc. makes it fun to read. I like the stories and my favourite is Dear Vampire".

Aliyah said, "I like it because it helps me to spell lots of words and makes me feel proud of myself".

Sakaria said, "It's fun and you learn new words. It feels exciting because I can tell my mum all about the new words I have learnt".

Year	Foundation Phase	Foundation Phase	Year 6	Year 6	Year 6
	Outcome 5+	Outcome 6+	Achieving NCL 4+	Achieving NCL 5+	Achieving NCL 6+
2014	79%	9%	83%	28%	0%
2015	81%	16%	85%	33%	0%
2016	86%	21%	85%	29%	5%

Severn Primary School is a Model School. You can arrange to visit the school by calling 02920 387 507.