

Read Write Inc. Phonics school awarded 'Double Excellent'

We spoke to Reading Leaders Carrie Smith and Elizabeth Simon about their school's culture of research and professional development, and the importance of *Read Write Inc.* in achieving their Estyn 'Double Excellent' status.

"Leaders play a significant role in promoting a highly successful professional learning culture throughout the school." [Estyn report, May 2017](#)

"We firmly believe in looking for opportunities to improve teaching in our school and across Wales. We seek to work with researchers and the government to investigate good practice and spread knowledge.

"We are a Pioneer School – one of a group of high-achieving schools (designated by the Welsh government) that put forward excellent aspects of our teaching to be considered for the Welsh National Curriculum. We have suggested aspects of our *Read Write Inc.* literacy teaching and assessment.

"With the support of our Consultant Trainer, we analyse data to identify each child's needs. This has really influenced our practice – it is innovative, as identified in our Estyn report.

"We use the programme across the whole school. This ensures consistency and means every teacher has the skills to teach any child to read. It gives us a common language to understand literacy challenges."

"Standards of reading are consistently very good across the school. In the Foundation Phase, most pupils make rapid progress in developing their early reading skills. Most Year 2 pupils are confident readers." [Estyn report, May 2017](#)

"In our school, we are fully committed to ensuring all our pupils learn to read as quickly as possible. Reading is the lynchpin that learning and wellbeing depend upon. The *Read Write Inc.* programme supports us extremely well in achieving this goal."

Clare Walsh, Headteacher

School name: **Hendredenny Park Primary**

Location: **Caerphilly**

Pupils on roll: **249**

Age range: **3-11**

Estyn rating: **Double Excellent**

"We have been teaching the programme since 2009 and have seen improvements in literacy year-on-year. We identified a need for a consistent, whole-school approach. Our Headteacher read Case Studies of schools using different programmes that had transformed literacy teaching (we hope this one inspires you to take on the programme!) and then visited a *Read Write Inc.* Model School. It perfectly suited our needs. We haven't looked back.

"We have regular Development Days and Refresher Training. After our Consultant Trainer has visited there is always a buzz among the staff. They feel fresh and supported knowing they have an expert they can call.

"Regular Development Days grant us access to the Ruth Miskin School Portal – it is full of resources, and videos (including helpful bite-sized films) to refresh our teaching. We use the films in our weekly practice sessions.

"We spend a large proportion of our budget on literacy training and resources. Being able to read allows children to access the whole curriculum and provides the strongest base for the move to secondary school."

