

Four *Read Write Inc.* Phonics schools: all awarded Estyn 'Double Excellent'

It's an exciting time to be a *Read Write Inc.* School in Wales. Four schools that teach the programme have been awarded 'Double Excellent' by Estyn. We spoke to Headteachers and Reading Leaders at these schools about their success and what *Read Write Inc.* Phonics meant to them.

The programme

H: "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 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."



Students at Severn Primary School

School Names:

Hendredenny Park Primary (H)

Palmerston Primary School (P)

Parcyrhun County Primary School (PA)

Severn Primary School (S)

S: "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.*"

PA: "We gave *Read Write Inc.* Phonics high priority – within 2 terms we saw significant improvement."

Training, Development Days and the Consultant Trainers

H: "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. These 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."

PA: "The 2-day training filled our teachers and teaching assistants with confidence and enthusiasm. We came away knowing the programme would provide progression and consistency in literacy across the school. We make sure all our staff are trained. The consistency and quality of the training is excellent and it has been vital to the continued success of our pupils. Our termly Development



A teacher at Palmerston Primary School

Days are tailored to the specific needs of our school, keeping our teachers up-to-date with the latest research and techniques.

S: "The training has always been excellent. Our Consultant Trainer has worked closely with the SLT. 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. Our Consultant Trainer supports our Reading Leaders with data analysis - tracking the data shows continually improving standards."

P: "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. 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. 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."

Professional development

S: "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."

Estyn say...

H: 'Leaders play a significant role in promoting a highly successful professional learning culture throughout the school.' Estyn report, May 2017

S: 'The arrangements for professional development are excellent and result in innovative approaches to learning and teaching.' Estyn report, May 2016

'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.' Estyn report, May 2016

P: "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."

PA: "Estyn paid tribute to our pupils 'excellent literacy... skills' from 'a very early age.'"



Students at Hendredenny Park Primary