

# “The expectations of the programme are high, and rightly so.”

**We spoke to Headteacher, Tracy Hazel, about the effect *Read Write Inc.* has had on Waunceirch Primary School.**

“When I started at Waunceirch Primary School, phonics teaching involved bits and bobs from various different programmes and as a consequence, children weren’t learning to read. Across Years 2 – 6, 54% read at expected levels and 70% of children were scoring 84% or above in national tests – most were only on the boundary and weren’t secure. Our teaching was not giving the children the best foundations so it needed to change.

“I looked around many programmes and concluded *Read Write Inc.* Phonics was the only programme that offered the depth and quality of teaching that our children deserved. We started the programme in September 2015 and have seen rapid progress. The expectations of the programme are high, and rightly so. On average, children increased their reading age by 27 months in one year. Our children flew.

“More than anything, *Read Write Inc.* Phonics gives us a consistent whole school approach. Every member of staff - teachers, teaching assistants, and leadership team - is tackling literacy in the same way, and everyone gets involved. We never miss a session. The role of the Reading Leader is vital to this consistency – they support and mentor our staff to make sure we all develop our teaching.

“The support we get from Ruth Miskin Training is outstanding. Our Consultant Trainer is amazing – it feels like she is part of the school. She is deeply interested and invested in us and wants to make a difference in our school and to our children.

**School Name:** **Waunceirch Primary School**

**Location:** **Neath, Wales**

**Pupils on roll:** **220**

**Age range:** **3 - 11**

**FSM:** **33.3%**

“Children often start at our school with a low baseline, with limited vocabularies and poor sentence construction. *Read Write Inc.* Phonics promotes speaking and listening skills. When the teacher models sentences, it encourages children to use whole sentences too, which is reinforced by the ‘build a sentence’ and ‘hold a sentence’ activities. Reading to the children immerses them in stories, expanding their imaginative experiences, which enriches their talk and play.

“I fully recommend this programme. Wherever your school is you could benefit from *Read Write Inc.* Phonics. Whether you have a high or low percentage of children eligible for Free School Meals, all are fully supported by the programme.”

