

‘Ruth Miskin Training and its consultants have made a significant contribution to the overall effectiveness of education across the entire trust.’ Bill Holledge, CEO

Bill Holledge tells us about the significance of Ruth Miskin Training (RMT) in supporting the trust’s mission of helping every child to read.

Turning around poorly performing schools

Paradigm Trust schools have worked with RMT consultants since the trust was founded in 2013. The support the trust has received from RMT has been critical in helping to turn around the performance of two poorly performing inner London primary schools, followed by a further four schools in East London and Ipswich. All schools have now been graded Good or Outstanding by Ofsted. A seventh, special free school, will join the trust in September 2022.

A recent Ofsted inspection of one of our schools noted that the vast majority of our children read fluently by the end of Key Stage 1 and that the teaching of reading is a strength. By summer half term, 88% of Reception children across the trust were reading carefully matched decodable books. What’s more, across our six schools, the average PSC for 2022 was 87%. Based on this year’s Reception data, we are expecting next year’s average to be 90% or more, as it was before the pandemic.

Strong practice is celebrated and shared across all schools

Our relationship with RMT has evolved in line with the trust’s development and our intention is to continue to use Read Write Inc. (RWI) to ensure that every child can read, irrespective of their additional needs or background. The trust’s director of school improvement meets regularly with RMT’s consultant trainer to review the implementation and impact of each RWI programme. Strong practice is celebrated and shared across all our schools, and areas for development are identified and resolved. The two meet every half term with all of the schools’ reading leaders to review pupil performance data and to plan the next steps to support staff in accelerating specific



children’s progress. Paradigm headteachers ensure the reading leaders are supported so that the plans can be implemented thoroughly.

Workforce feels valued and supported

The RWI approach to teaching and learning and behaviour management is consistent within the trust’s evidence-informed pedagogical practices - drawing heavily on Rosenshine’s principles of instruction and strategies from Doug Lemov’s Teach Like a Champion – in particular, the practice and coaching model. This has resulted in a highly knowledgeable and skilful workforce that feels valued and supported – with associated benefits in terms of staff retention.

Every child learns to read

Fundamentally, by helping Paradigm Trust ensure that every child learns to read, RMT and its consultants have made a significant contribution to the overall effectiveness of education across the entire trust. “As a result, our children have a strong foundation in early literacy, which in turn unlocks our wide, ambitious, and rich curriculum for all, including those who need us the most.

