

Case Study:

Westgate Hill Primary Academy, Newcastle upon Tyne

“I absolutely love RWI and wholeheartedly recommend this programme to any school.”

Results improve year on year

I've been a teacher at Westgate Hill Primary Academy since 2000 and have seen a number of phonics programmes implemented. Our staff and pupils love Read Write Inc. Phonics (RWI) and we have seen hugely positive results that have improved every year since adopting the programme. Ofsted noted that our children: “make a fast start learning phonics and that children in Years 1 and 2 develop their phonics knowledge to become confident and fluent readers.”



Valuable trainer support and online professional development

We have regular development days with an amazing consultant trainer from RMT. He continually offers us the support and guidance we need to deliver high-quality teaching in phonics and reading. We create action plans together and professional development for staff through personalised pathways on the online portal. This ensures phonics is taught consistently and with fidelity across the school. I carry out further drop-in sessions and work alongside staff to ensure the quality of teaching phonics continues to be outstanding.

School information

Suzanne Prudhoe, Reading Lead

Pupils on roll: 760

% children on FSM 49%

% children with EAL 91%

Ofsted date October 2021

Ofsted rating Outstanding
(previous rating: Inadequate)

Clear behaviour expectations, calm lessons

Our staff set the highest expectations and children display excellent behaviour in phonics classes and throughout the school. The children love phonics and are aware of the expectations for every RWI lesson. They respond positively to the silent signals and know the lesson structure no matter which group they are in. Many staff use the signals in other lessons. This has created a calm teaching and learning environment.

High-quality phonics films online

The online subscription has had such a positive impact, especially when we had to provide remote learning. We can send high-quality phonics lessons to our children at the appropriate level. The online subscription has also been invaluable in the classroom for additional phonics lessons in preparation for the phonics screening check. We use it for training staff new to phonics too.

Daily tutoring, success for every child

We analyse assessment data every half-term to highlight children making slower progress who need extra one-to-one tutoring. We put in place daily support to help these children make progress.

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The right books for RWI lessons and home learning

We have bought all the storybooks and book bag books needed so that every child has the right books for each RWI lesson and for home learning. All staff teaching RWI have the right resources for the group they are teaching. Other resources we need for our teaching are available with the Oxford Owl subscription.

Children and parents love the RWI programme

Our children love RWI. Visitors observing phonics lessons have commented on how happy and engaged they are. There is always a positive learning atmosphere during phonics lessons. Parents are very keen to support their children and attend RWI meetings and workshops. Many have also bought resources such as the speed sounds flashcards to support their child at home.



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