

Case Study 2019: How we supported one school in achieving a 17% increase in their SATs Reading Results

In December 2018, we were contacted by St Matthew's CE Primary School, a two-form entry school, and asked how we could support their Key Stage 2 SATs Reading outcomes. In particular, the Head was interested as to how we could support their more able children in ensuring their achievement of the higher standard in their SATs.

Along with the head, deputy and classroom teachers, one of our Secondary English specialists coordinated a specific programme of intervention for 30 pupils. This intervention was closely paired with their in-class teaching and was very much a triangulated approach with the classroom teachers, influencing their class work as well as their additional provision.

The intervention programme that the children embarked on began with an 'audit' of their current learning and outcomes before explicitly upskilling and developing the children's 'basic' reading skills: sharpening their skimming, scanning, retrieval and inference, building their comprehension and appreciation of a wider vocabulary through more challenging texts with complex layers of meaning. Specifically, we addressed formulating responses to reading and exploring how to articulate their understanding of a text in writing. We took the children "beyond" the confines of the SATs before bringing them back to the SATs material for formal examination technique preparation in late February.

In December, two children were working at "greater depth". By early April, 30 pupils were working at greater depth in their practice reading tests; the children were soaring with confidence and were much more competent and eager readers as a result. The profound impact that this support has had is evident in both the children themselves as well as the results that they have achieved as a result. Not only will these children begin secondary school with great SATs results, they will start secondary school as confident, able, widely-read readers equipped to embrace the challenges of Key Stage 3.

School Results:

Key Stage 2 SATs Reading Results	Following input from Learn North West
Percentage of Students achieving Expected Standard	+16% to 91%
Percentage of Students achieving the high standard/greater depth	+17% to 39%