

Abacus inspires a love of maths and ensures every child masters the National Curriculum



School name:	 Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School	School type:	 Primary School
Region:	 Lancashire	Ofsted rating:	 Outstanding
Area type:	 Rural	Pupil premium %:	 10%
Number of pupils:	 185	EAL %:	 2%

Why Abacus? Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School needed a structured programme to ensure consistent coverage of the 2014 National Curriculum throughout the school. **Deborah Hodgkin**, the **Deputy Head Teacher**, explains how Abacus has developed pupil confidence and made a big impact on pupil progress.

Key points to take away

- Abacus provides a framework for maths teaching and ensures complete coverage of the National Curriculum.
- The assessment tools in Abacus enable teachers to identify gaps in learning and keep pupils on track to achieve age-related expectations.
- Abacus promotes confidence and a love of maths, for both teachers and pupils.

Background

When I first came to the school three years ago, there was no clear structure to maths teaching, which made me unsure about whether the National Curriculum was being implemented consistently. We needed something that would streamline lessons, that we could use to monitor coverage and progress, and that provided continuity across different year groups. Having seen good results from the use of Abacus in a previous school, I introduced Abacus here, and now it's our main maths programme.

Planning that covers all core learning objectives

Abacus provides teachers with a clear structure for lesson planning. The plans cover the core learning and lesson objectives so that we can focus on ensuring mastery. All our teachers need to do is adapt the plans to their

particular class. The next steps are also there; they've already been planned and mapped to the National Curriculum for you. That's one of the greatest things with Abacus – we save so much time on planning.

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There is a strong link between the interactive activities and planning materials in Abacus. All interactive activities can be found in one place, so teachers don't have to search for them. This is a great feature, because time is often quite tight in lessons.

The online resources are well thought out as they build on and supplement the textbook questions. After the children have been shown the modelling using the interactive resources on the board, they have a go at their own activities – because the modelling is used consistently across the resources children can quickly feel success.

Ensuring your pupils are on track and making progress

With Abacus, we've seen a big impact on pupil progress. The new curriculum focuses on getting all children to hit the same target. The progression maps in Abacus highlight everything that the children should cover, and the teachers can cross the skills off as each pupil masters them.



Imagery with thanks to St Paul's C of E Primary School

The online tracking built into Abacus has enabled us to become much more aware of which pupils need extra help, which allows us to close the gap. We quickly pick up and address areas where further work is needed, which wouldn't be possible with just an end-of-year test. Overall, attainment is improving because children are given support more quickly than before.

I'm confident that the pupils will hit their targets. Our results have improved steadily over the past three years, since adopting Abacus, and we have seen that our pupils retain their understanding. Our progress this year is in the top 20% of schools in the country, which we're very excited about.

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Confident pupils who love maths

Since we've been using Abacus, pupils have become much more confident in maths and have a much better attitude towards it. When necessary, Abacus lets them attempt the same skills again – if they don't get it the first day, they might get it on the second or third. The repetition gives

children time to learn rather than forcing them to move on before they are ready.

All of the children really enjoy using Abacus. They love working from the textbooks, which are colourful, engaging and easy to use. We don't have any children who don't want to learn maths. In fact, quite the opposite: they'd rather learn maths than anything else. So I'd say Abacus has had a massive impact.

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Your feedback matters!

If you've been using Abacus, we'd love to hear your feedback too, so we can keep making Abacus better and better – please tell us what you think by submitting feedback in ActiveLearn Primary.

Find out more

To contact your local Pearson Primary representative email primaryappointments@pearson.com or visit [pearsonprimary.co.uk/impact](https://www.pearsonprimary.co.uk/impact) to see more impact case studies.