

Raising standards to become an outstanding school



School name:  Wyndham Primary Academy	School type:  Academy Primary (3-11 years)
Region:  Derbyshire	Ofsted rating:  Outstanding (May 2014)
Area type:  City	Pupil premium %:  56%
Number of pupils:  306	EAL %:  17%

Why Rapid? Wyndham Primary Academy opened in September 2012. **Principal Angela O'Brien** wanted to raise standards in the school, which had previously been a primary school placed in Special Measures. Angela introduced Rapid to help support teachers to raise attainment and implement a sustainable and proven programme.

Key points to take away

- Rapid helps teaching staff to **work independently and deliver quality learning**.
- Rapid has given the school a consistent approach to **help struggling learners realise their potential**.
- The school has seen **significant improvement in the children's rate of progress**.
- The **gap** between pupils eligible for FSM and their peers **has been reduced**.

Rapid – supporting teachers to deliver effective learning

Raising attainment is a high priority at Wyndham. Our staff set up intervention groups but struggled with up to 24 children in the groups at any one time, different plans from multiple class teachers and only two TAs to run the interventions, we needed something more sustainable. We wanted to be able to provide children with quality learning that could be proven by data. When we saw Rapid, we loved the fact that all the plans, resources and structure were provided so that very little else was needed. Rapid has given our school a consistent approach to struggling learners and has empowered Teaching Assistants to work independently.

“It's so easy to follow.”

(Kelly, Teaching Assistant)

How Rapid is used at Wyndham

We have a separate intervention unit, known as the NEST, run by two very dedicated Teaching Assistants. The NEST is a bright, positive, friendly place where struggling pupils have the chance to make real progress in small group interventions. Pupils who need intervention are referred to the NEST for a term. Pupils come out of the main class lesson to work on the subject they need help with every day for a term, returning to their classroom for all other subjects. Whilst in the NEST, they use Rapid Reading, Rapid Phonics, Rapid Writing or Rapid Maths to boost their progress in these subjects.

Children are assessed for reading or maths level and emotional development at the point of referral to the NEST, at the end of their term in the NEST and again one and two terms after they return to their class so that their progress can be measured and sustained.

Staff assess children using a points system, where all children in KS2 are expected to make four points' progress per year.



“Rapid is our passion.”

(Angela, Principal)



Reading results

83% of the children working on Rapid Reading and Phonics during the 2013-2014 academic year made at least one point progress in a term, 50% made at least two points progress, putting them ahead of their target, and 21% made three or more points' progress in one term, putting them well ahead of their target. 15 out of 24 of these children were eligible for free school meals. Of the 12 children who were assessed again one term after they left the unit, all had made progress, all but one were on track to reach their four point target and one boy had made a full seven points' progress – that's almost two years' progress in just two terms.

Maths results

In Maths, 79% of children made at least one point progress during their term in the NEST and this progress continued for all children throughout the next term. 46% gained two points during their term on Rapid, putting them ahead of target, and 16% made a fantastic three points' progress in one term – that's the equivalent of one and a half NC sub-levels in one term.

Positive feedback from the children

The children love using Rapid – they are excited by it. Children have lost their prior attitude of reading being something they felt unable to do – now they love learning! Children love being referred to the NEST to work on Rapid – even the children in the school who aren't struggling want to use Rapid!

What the children think

We asked some of the children to talk about Rapid in their own words:

- “Rapid Reading makes you a higher level. I like all the books!” (Rapid Reading and Phonics)

- “The books aren't just boring. They're colourful and I like the ones with the dangerous animals.” (Rapid Reading and Phonics)
- “I am more confident now. I like doing the homework!” (Rapid Maths)

Excellent parent feedback

There has been a huge shift in the attitude of parents over the time the school has been using Rapid. A referral to the NEST is no longer seen as a stigma – now, it engenders excitement at the potential for their children to succeed. The NEST is seen as a unit for helping children to realise their potential and parents are very supportive of that. The NEST's doors are always open to parents, so they are able to discuss any concerns and see the progress their children have been making.



The outcome – fantastic Ofsted results

In May 2014, we were delighted to receive an Outstanding Ofsted rating. Ofsted commended the work in the NEST, saying that it makes a very significant contribution to the learning of children with special educational needs. They also reported that pupils known to be eligible for free school meals make outstanding progress and that the gap between these pupils and their peers is rapidly reducing. In the 2013 national tests for Year 6 pupils their results were similar to and sometimes above those of other pupils in all subjects.

Raising attainment is a high priority for us, and Rapid has really helped. Rapid creates structure and consistency to intervention sessions and it has given our TAs the confidence to work independently. We believe that Rapid has been a key factor for the improvement in our school.

Find out more

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