

Using Pupil Premium funding to close the gap

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| School name: |  Blakehill Primary School | School type: |  Community Primary (4-11 years) |
| Region: |  West Yorkshire | Ofsted rating: |  Good (January 2015) |
| Area type: |  City | Pupil premium %: |  17.2% |
| Number of pupils: |  420 | EAL %: |  3.9% |

Why Rapid? Blakehill is a larger than average primary with 420 children from a wide variety of backgrounds. It received a 'Good' rating in the last two Ofsted inspections. We talked to **Annette Patterson, Assistant Head** about her experiences of Rapid Phonics in Blakehill.

Key points to take away

- A proven resource for children not making the expected progress in reading.
- Comprehensive teaching notes **support teachers to deliver effective sessions.**
- Placement tests **help track children's progress** against their peers in class and nationally.
- **In-school training available** so staff can get up and running quickly and consistently.

Background

At Blakehill we use Phonics Play based on Letters and Sounds, and Rapid Phonics is our main intervention for children not making the expected progress in reading. We purchased it on a recommendation from another school with our Pupil Premium funding.

How did you implement Rapid Phonics?

Implementing Rapid Phonics was really easy for us; our Pearson Consultant arranged for a trainer to come into school which was fantastic as we didn't have to go off-site and take staff out of school.

The teaching notes really support the teaching assistants, and enable anyone who has been trained, to deliver effective sessions 'off the peg'. Everything they need is in place allowing the full 20 minutes of each intervention session to be really focused and effective. The staff delivering the intervention love it.

“ I have not seen impact like this before... ”

What difference has Rapid Phonics made at Blakehill?

By using the placement tests every six weeks we tracked children's progress through the phonic steps. We deliver a phonic test to all children so that those on the intervention are appraised in the context of the progress of the whole class, against national expectations. **All the children at Blakehill on the Rapid Phonics intervention filled the gaps they had in their phonics and after the programme were in line with their peers.**



The outcome – Rapid progress and fantastic results

Building on our success from last year, 88% of our Year 1 pupils passed the Phonics Screening check and Rapid Phonics played a big part in our achievement. One support staff member said "I have not seen impact like this before; the children love the snappy lessons!" Personally, I have never found a child it did not work with and children no longer remain on interventions for long periods.

Find out more

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