

Case Study

St Paul's RC Academy



Read Write Inc. Fresh Start is used by all nine of Dundee City's secondary schools. St Paul's RC Academy began using the programme in October 2013.

In September 2013, 38 out of 104 pupils entered St Paul's First Year (Year 7) with a reading age of nine and below. The teaching staff were keen to improve the situation but not being primary trained, felt nervous. They decided to use the Fresh Start programme as it included comprehensive training.

Marèse Harte-Carroll, Principal Support for Learning Teacher said: *"Ten of us attended Fresh Start Training and it engaged every single one of us: we were totally buoyed after it, ready to start."*

"Our young people did not share our enthusiasm! They had lost confidence in their ability to read and their behaviour was difficult."



We explained that we didn't know where the gaps in their knowledge were and Fresh Start was going to help us find them."

On average, children made two years' progress in eight months using the Test of Word Reading Efficiency. 12 of the 38 students have now graduated from the Fresh Start programme.

"You can see the progress in the books; from scribbles to pieces of simply stunning writing. You can tell that they are proud and we are too – progress is beyond what we could have hoped for."

"I don't think our children would be reading if it wasn't for Fresh Start. All of our children are now more confident and this has an impact across the curriculum – they perform better and are more willing to learn in all subjects."

**Marèse Harte-Carroll,
Principal Support for
Learning Teacher**



- *"I had loads of good ideas but I couldn't write them down on paper. Now I can."*
- *"I feel that my writing is much better and my reading is just superb."*
- *"Fresh Start helps my brain and my confidence."*
- *"I like working with a partner because they are always there to help."*
- *"My mum thinks that I've really come along."*
- *"Fresh Start is going to help me get the job I want when I'm older."*

Comments from children in St Paul's Second Year (Year 8)