

Makes assessing the pupils easier for teachers

TINGWALL PRIMARY SCHOOL, SHETLAND

Scale of the challenge

Marion Wiseman, Additional Support Needs Teacher at Tingwall Primary, went to lectures and talks about Accelerated Reader following the realisation that her Upper Primary pupils often found reading off-putting. The workbook activities in the older books were, in the pupils' own words, "a drag".

A school of 50 pupils from Primary 1 to 7, taught in composite classes by three teachers, Tingwall has now been running the Accelerated Reader program for one and a half years,

Implementation

The implementation was aimed mainly at Upper Primary but also some of the younger classes. Primary 7 uses Accelerated Reader in a one-term block, with all the pupils working on it.

The teachers also use Accelerated Reader books during story time, reading them out loud to the class then setting the pupils to work on the quizzes, testing that they have been paying attention.

Results

Accelerated Reader encourages independent reading which, in turn, helps pupils enjoy reading more. "Having a quiz at the end to test pupils' comprehension also gives the teachers an idea of the reading and understanding levels," said Marion.

It is especially useful in Upper Primary where independent reading is encouraged. The quiz log shows the teachers whether pupils are reading or not.

The pupils in Primary 3 are keen on the challenge of the quizzes. After pupils have read a defined amount of books they receive a book token at the end of term.

Marion explained, "It is encouraging to see that pupils like their reading success. In Upper Primary last year we found that few girls in particular, were interested in reading, but once they started using Accelerated Reader they became very competitive and simply could not get enough."

Using Accelerated Reader takes place against a backdrop of other endeavours Tingwall undertakes to encourage reading. One of these projects has been to encourage pupils to write their own kinds of books then stage a mock book launch.

What teachers say...

"Parents have seen Accelerated Reader at parents' evenings and are really taken with it"

"It's a way of getting away from older books while still assessing the children"

"The great boon is that Accelerated Reader eases pressure on our time. Not much preparation is involved."

"Collating evidence – always useful when inspectors come round – is done for you automatically by the program."

What pupils say....

"This is a lot better than the old textbooks we worked through."

"We can work through Accelerated Reader on our own and also go through it after story-time."

"My mum and dad came and saw why I like the computer quizzes so much."