

Accelerated Reader helps pupils with behavioural problems

VICTORIA ROAD SCHOOL, ABERDEEN

Victoria Road School in Aberdeen was selected to take part in a pilot study for Accelerated Reader software five years ago. The pilot was implemented in both primary and secondary school throughout the UK. Schools who have successfully used this software confirm Accelerated Reader to be a true asset in motivating their pupils to read for pleasure. Dave Gibson a teacher at Victoria Road says, "I have used Accelerated Reader for a number of years now, it is firmly established as a means of delivering part of the reading curriculum to upper primary pupils."

Victoria Road has 182 pupils from Primary 1 to 7, many of which exhibit social and behavioural problems. The school is based in one of Aberdeen's socially deprived areas, where teachers face daily problems of pupils with reading difficulties and those exhibiting challenging behaviour. Through the use of Accelerated Reader with its motivational factor of pupils taking a quiz on the computer and immediately seeing reading improvement, pupils who previously had no interest in school became interested again. Reading is no longer a tedious chore for the pupils; it is something they enjoy.

In addition to these benefits, teachers are no longer tied up with mountains of paperwork, or marking. Accelerated Reader prints a TOPS report, once the pupil has completed a quiz. This is like a book report showing how well the book was read and understood by each pupil.

Dave Gibson says, "Accelerated Reader has simplified my mornings in that the children come in, read books and take tests on the computer with minimal input from me. With a few clicks of my mouse button, I can get information about each pupil that would have been time-consuming and difficult to amass manually."

To complement Accelerated Reader, Victoria Road School use STAR Reading which measures individual or class reading growth. STAR Reading is a computer adaptive test; the difficulty of the questions adapts to right and wrong answers.

Dave Gibson, confirms, "Preliminary results from STAR testing at the start of term and now have shown a high proportion of my Year 6 pupils progressing by over a year in terms of GE scores in less than half a year of using Accelerated Reader."