

## Airedale Junior School, Castleford

### Background

Airedale Junior School is a large junior school in a disadvantaged area of Wakefield, where almost all pupils are of White British heritage. The proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals is well above average, as is the proportion of disabled pupils. The number of pupils with special educational needs, including those supported by School Action Plus or with a statement of special educational needs, is higher than average. The school has received several awards, including Investors in People, Healthy School status and the Open Futures Quality Mark.

### How the school uses 'I can do maths'

We introduced **I can do maths** across the school in June 2011. The key aims of the initiative were to build confidence and improve accuracy and speed in mental maths, and to encourage pupils to settle down quickly and focus on the task in hand. We also hoped to develop pupils' understanding and use of mathematical vocabulary and improve their ability to work independently. The ultimate goal was to prepare pupils for the demands of the Key Stage 2 SATs and to raise levels of attainment.

The format of the Schofield & Sims **Mental Arithmetic** books ensures that pupils are continuously reviewing prior learning of concepts covered. This embeds their understanding and enables them to make accelerated progress. Teachers support the pupils by working through sections of the workbooks with them as necessary and pre-teaching some of the more difficult concepts. Pupils are encouraged to use jottings and to underline key vocabulary to solve the written problems.

We aim to make marking interactive, emphasising the use of mathematical vocabulary and encouraging pupils to 'talk maths' and explain their methods. Visual modelling is essential and teachers guide pupils in making links to previous questions, inverse operations and calculating methods. The books also help to identify areas of weakness, both individually and at a whole-class or set level.

### Comments from Ofsted

In 2012 Ofsted commented that although pupils enter the school with below-average attainment in mathematics, by Year 6 their attainment is broadly average, with the gap closing as a result of pupils' accelerated progress. The level of pupil participation in maths lessons was described as 'outstanding', allowing pupils to develop their speaking skills and use 'talk partners'.

### School details

**Pupils:** 337

**% of EAL pupils:** 1.2

**% of SEN pupils:** 10.1

**% free school meals:** 23.1

### Testimonials

*Since implementing **I can do maths** into our weekly maths routine, the mental concepts of our pupils have clearly improved, alongside their knowledge of mathematical vocabulary.*

**Katie Robinson**  
Maths Coordinator

*As a result of **I can do maths**, we have seen a clear improvement in children's mental arithmetic skills, and a dramatic increase in SATs results.*

**Kevin Butler**  
Headteacher

### Key Stage 2 maths SATs results

