

Hill View Primary School, Banbury

Background

This is a larger-than-average primary school. Most pupils live in the immediate vicinity and are of White British heritage. The remainder come from a wide range of minority ethnic backgrounds, with fewer than the average number of pupils speaking English as an additional language. An average proportion of pupils are known to be eligible for free school meals. The proportion of pupils with disabilities and the number of pupils with special educational needs are also average. The school meets the Government's current minimum expectation for pupils' attainment and progress. The school has been awarded Healthy School status and the Basic Skills Quality Mark.

How the school uses 'I can do maths'

We have been using **I can do maths** at Hill View School for around four years now, across Key Stage 2 and with our more able Year 2 pupils. We use the books for a weekly homework task, with each book lasting the whole academic year. Tasks are allocated 'by stage not age': pupils are assessed and allocated the most appropriate book for their mathematical ability, regardless of their age.

Pupils are grouped together in homework groups on Fridays for 30 minutes. They use this time to mark homework and discuss areas of difficulty. We have also set up homework clubs, run at lunchtimes by a teaching assistant and a team of Year 6 volunteers: pupils can drop in for help when they need it. We did this because many parents were unsure of how best to support their children with homework.

We like the fact that the Schofield & Sims **Mental Arithmetic** books regularly revisit topics and the pupils often say that they are less likely to forget how to do things because they come up in homework so regularly. The consistency also appeals to parents, as each week pupils complete tests in the same format made up of three separate parts (parts A, B and C). The pupils also say that the homework questions are similar in style to those in the Key Stage 2 mental maths test, so they have very regular practice.

Comments from Ofsted

In the 2012 Ofsted report, inspectors found that progress had accelerated in mathematics, with pupils making steady progress, resulting in average standards by the end of Year 6. The high quality of pupils' calculation skills was highlighted, and the school was praised on the 'outstanding practice' brought about by a review of teachers' marking.

School details

Pupils: 486

% of EAL pupils: 6.7

% of SEN pupils: 10.8

% free school meals: 17.3

Testimonials

*We have seen a real improvement in mental maths skills since starting **I can do maths**, with Year 6 mental maths SATs results steadily improving. We feel that the **Mental Arithmetic** books provide structured, purposeful and manageable homework tasks, which in turn are helping to secure and improve mental calculation skills.*

Karen Recchia
Year 6 Teacher and
Assessment Coordinator

Key Stage 2 maths SATs results

