

## St Francis Catholic Primary School, Goosnargh

### Background

St Francis is a smaller-than-average primary school with a Reception class and three mixed-year classes (for years 1/2, 3/4 and 5/6). A large proportion of the pupils are from a White British heritage and smaller-than-average numbers are from minority ethnic groups. The proportion of pupils supported by School Action Plus or with a statement of special educational needs is above average. The number of pupils who are known to be eligible for free school meals is well below the national average. A high proportion of pupils join the school after the Early Years Foundation Stage.

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

We radically changed the way that we teach maths across the school a few years ago, and the Schofield & Sims **Mental Arithmetic** books played a big part in this. We are a small school so we split the classes into small ability-level groups, often a mix of year groups, all working on the same book. The pupils work on a test independently, outside their usual maths lessons, and mark together on a Friday in small groups.

The books help teachers to monitor pupils' progress in acquiring maths concepts. They immediately see trends and can address areas that pupils are struggling with in the main lesson. We feel that this is a more responsive way of teaching.

Our use of teaching assistants keeps groups small: with training they become confident in teaching concepts and in identifying the resources that pupils need to develop a firmer understanding. We regularly assess pupils and ensure that the groups are dynamic, so each pupil is working at an appropriate level.

Last year we had some very capable pupils, and using the Level 6 book really challenged them, taking them well above the Key Stage 2 curriculum – I've never taught Pythagoras' theorem in a primary school before!

### Comments from Ofsted

In 2012 Ofsted commented that: 'across the school, teachers build strong relationships with pupils, who in turn demonstrate very positive attitudes to their lessons and display a "can do" approach to their learning'. It was also noted that 'pupils' excellent attitudes mean they are keen and able to work independently for sustained periods of time.'

### School details

Pupils: 82

% of EAL pupils: N/A

% of SEN pupils: 8.5

% free school meals: 3.7

### Testimonials

*Maths is my subject specialism, so encouraging a love of maths in the pupils in my school is very important to me. We have been using the Schofield & Sims **Mental Arithmetic** books with **I can do maths** for three years and have seen our data improve year on year.*

Janet Wilkinson  
Headteacher

### Key Stage 2 maths SATs results

