



**Education Advisers:
Developing Phonics Provision - Broomfield Primary School**

Broomfield Primary School in Chelmsford, rated ‘Good’ by Ofsted in 2013, currently has over 300 pupils aged 4-11. The school worked closely with an EES for Schools Education Adviser to improve outcomes in the Y1 Phonics Screening Check.

As part of Essex County Council’s drive to improve outcomes in the Y1 Phonics Screening Check, Phonics Reviews were commissioned in a number of schools across Essex. These took the form of an initial full-day visit followed up by a half-day visit, some weeks later, to review progress. Kathy Ewers, education adviser, was asked to carry out a review at Broomfield Primary School as results in June 2014 were significantly below Essex and National standards – 56% compared to 74%. Throughout the review and subsequent visits, school leaders were fully engaged and keen to work in partnership with Kathy in order to secure improvements.

The Phonics Review included lesson observations, discussions with key members of staff, environment walks and listening to pupils read. While a number of strengths were identified, carefully planned lessons, a focus on blending skills and clear systems for tracking and assessment, a number of areas for development were also evident. These included ensuring there was a clear focus across the lesson, strengthening multi-sensory links through increased opportunities for writing and making sure that the enunciation of phonemes was correct.



For more information contact:

T: 0345 200 8600 | **E:** enquiries@EESforschools.org | **W:** EESforschools.org/education-advisers

By the time of the next visit 'prompt and positive action' had been taken to implement the suggested improvements. Evidence of this was seen through the clear links across the lessons and increased opportunities for writing.

The school continues its commitment to improving phonics provision. The progress of all pupils is carefully monitored and intervention is put in place where needed. School leaders have invested in ongoing support with Kathy including training, scrutiny of tracking information, support for individual teachers and suggestions for working with some of the pupils who are struggling.

In 2015 the school aimed for 80% of pupils to reach the benchmark in the Y1 phonics screening check. Unfortunately this was not achieved but results did rise by 10% on the previous year and improvements in the quality of provision were clearly evident. School leaders continued to push for improvement and were delighted when 91% of pupils achieved the benchmark in June 2016, a testament to the commitment and determination of all involved.

“

As you can imagine, we were delighted when 91% of year one pupils achieved the phonics' benchmark in June 2016. This result represented two years hard work on the part of our staff, in collaboration with Kathy. Her support and guidance has allowed staff to develop their skills with regards the teaching of phonics, which in turn has driven up standards.

Kathy has a wealth of knowledge when teaching phonics and reading skills. When working in-school she is 'developmental' not 'judge mental' and promotes confidence amongst staff. We have very much valued working with Kathy and we would recommend her to any school seeking support in this area.

**Heather Shelley, Headteacher,
Broomfield Primary School**

”

For more information contact:

T: 0345 200 8600

E: enquiries@EESforschools.org

W: EESforschools.org/education-advisers