



Renfrewshire  
Council

## Raising Attainment in Renfrewshire: An Approach to Improving Literacy

The Primary Literacy  
Coaching Programme



Renfrewshire  
Council

'Growing up in poverty can have a huge influence on a child's future. Addressing the attainment gap in schools is critical to make sure children from low-income families are able to achieve their potential. We will invest £2 million to address the attainment gap in Renfrewshire. The primary focus of this work will be developing new approaches to teaching reading across Renfrewshire.'

Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission

### Renfrewshire's Tackling Poverty Commission Recommendations:

- Use all available poverty data and develop professional expertise in addressing the attainment gap in schools.
- Deliver tailored interventions in schools to address the gap, with specific focus on literacy skills and parental involvement.

In August 2015, Renfrewshire Council embarked on an ambitious project in partnership with Professor Sue Ellis and the University of Strathclyde. Spanning from early years to the senior phase, the project focuses specifically on reading with a view to raising attainment both in literary and across the curriculum. The project consists of four workstreams - 2 in primary schools and 2 in secondary schools.



### How Has This Been Developed in Our Schools?: A Case Study Bishopton Primary School



Bishopton Primary School is a non-denominational school with 416 pupils. In October 2015, Head Teacher Wendy McNaught and P1 class teacher Lorna Hunter both participated in the Primary Literacy Coaching Programme. This 10 week professional learning programme offered weekly professional learning in weeks 1 - 4 followed by the opportunity to apply concepts gained in 'Literacy Clinics' with pupils and fortnightly professional discussion in collaborative seminars during weeks 5 - 10.

As a result, Bishopton Primary School have developed key concepts such as text level, reader engagement, reader identity and the cultural capital of pupils in a variety of ways by:

- providing funding to class teachers to enhance classroom libraries
- updating the school reading policy to include new approaches and establish a shared vision for reading
- celebrating World Book Day by asking children to donate books from home to enhance class libraries
- undertaking a sponsored Readathon for Robin House
- asking all pupils to complete reader engagement surveys at the start/end of each school session to determine pupil perceptions, mindsets and personal engagement in reading
- using nationally recognised book bands to band all infant core reading books
- introducing regular use of running records as an assessment tool to ensure appropriate support and challenge and to support teacher judgement
- implementing a range of teaching strategies that promote a coaching approach to the teaching of reading
- introducing simultaneous reading to provide more 'time on task' for all pupils
- providing training to all staff on key concepts from the Primary literacy Coaching Programme
- hosting an information evening for parents to share new approaches to reading and the concept of book banding
- purchasing additional reading materials to provide a greater variety within book bands
- organising a book fair for pupils and parents
- working in partnership with Renfrewshire Libraries and making regular library visits
- appointing a literacy champion to support all staff with individual pupil concerns and implementation of strategies introduced during the Primary Literacy Coaching Programme