



# Francis Askew Primary School



## School Profile

Every Child Counts Teacher: **Paula Cloughton**

Town: **Hull**

LA: **Hull**

Pupils on roll: **271**

Ofsted: **Good, October 2010**

Free School Meals: **62.6%**

English as an Additional Language: **15%**

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## How long have Francis Askew Primary School been using *Numicon*?

Francis Askew Primary School introduced *Numicon* in 2010. ‘*Numicon* is used as a mainstream resource throughout the school, starting with familiarisation and learning through play in EYFS to solving more complex calculations in upper Key Stage 2.’

The school went on to introduce the *Numicon* Intervention Programme in 2011 ‘to address the needs of children who were working just below age-related expectations.’

## What was the impact of the *Numicon* Intervention Programme for struggling learners?

Paula explains that: ‘after completion of the 12 week programme, a comparison of pre- and post-intervention data was significant, with children showing a Number Age gain of between 9 months and 36 months!’ She confirms that ‘subsequent assessment has shown that the majority of children have maintained the gains’.

## What has been the trend of improvement since using *Numicon*?

At Francis Askew Primary School, ‘*Numicon* has been extremely significant in developing a context for learning whereby children are able to make a network of connections between concrete experiences, representations, language and symbolic notation.’

The following table shows the impact on Key Stage 1 results:

	2011	2012	2013
Key Stage 1 Level 2+	82%	100%	82%
Key Stage 1 Level 2B+	57%	92%	72%
Key Stage 1 Level 3	9%	33%	36%

## What do pupils think of *Numicon*?

Paula describes the response from the children as ‘amazing’! She explains that ‘*Numicon* has played a fundamental role in developing self-esteem and confidence and has allowed them to realise themselves as mathematicians.’ She adds that ‘children are often observed talking animatedly about what they have found out, and enjoy sharing their mathematical thinking. The approach has inspired children to take ownership of their learning journey which is exciting and purposeful for them.’



### What do they think are the strengths of *Numicon*?

Francis Askew Primary School rate *Numicon*'s teaching method, teaching resources, and planning and assessment as excellent. Paula explains how *Numicon*, 'encourages learning to take place in a sensory dimension, as it makes numbers real for the child in the sense that they can see and touch them.' It has 'developed a balance between teacher-led activities and child-initiated investigations, and has allowed a learning conversation to take place that has focus and meaning.' She praises it as an 'extremely flexible resource', which has 'inspired teachers to create their own activities that will support development of a specific concept.'

### What would Francis Askew Primary School say to other schools?

Paula says: 'It is the very fact that *Numicon* is embedded in active research that makes it so appealing to me. It is not a scheme but an approach that illustrates how children learn. It is multi-sensory, interactive and inclusive. It infuses mathematics with energy. It encourages active and independent learning. It engages children in a mathematical conversation that is relevant, animated and open to discovery.'

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