

# 'It is difficult to improve writing, so to improve it so significantly is amazing'

A CITY head teacher today paid tribute to his "wonderful and hardworking" staff, pupils and governors after his school was named in the top 100 most improved in the country.

Adelaide Primary School, in Walker Street, west Hull, is the 50th most improved primary nationwide.

The scores are based on the level four tests taken at age 11.

The Department for Education and Skills draws up the list of primaries that have made a sustained improvement over four years.

Today, acting head teacher Brian Roberts said; "The reason the school has improved is because we have a superb teaching staff who are well supported by excellent teaching assistants and very supportive governors and supportive parents.

"We like to think of ourselves as a community school who don't just concern ourselves with maths, English and science."

"We have targeted groups of children in the school depending on their needs for each of the core subjects."

Staff singled out a pilot scheme the school was asked to take part in, called Success for All, as being particularly helpful.

The scheme, run by a Nottingham company, was first used in Bransholme, before being tried at Adelaide Primary School.

Pupils are split into small ability groups for an hour and a half each day to concentrate on English.

The obvious benefit is to literacy skills, while having an impact on other subjects.

Improvements have been in writing Mr Roberts said; "It is difficult to improve writing, so to improve it so significantly is amazing."

"The pupils work in small ability groups in what we call co-operative learning, which is where one child will explain something to another. In turn it helps them remember."

"The scheme has taken off since it began four years ago and the staff and children really enjoy it."

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