



NUMICON CASE STUDY

SS Aidan & Oswald RC Primary School



School Profile

Early Years Maths Specialist: **Louise Rothwell**

Town: **Royton**

LA: **Oldham**

Pupils on roll: **406**

Ofsted: **Good, July 2012**

Free School Meals: **19%**

English as an Additional Language: **29%**

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How long have SS Aidan & Oswald Primary School been using *Numicon*?

SS Aidan & Oswald Primary School started using *Numicon* in 2011 across their whole school. They rate the *Numicon* teaching method, teaching resources, planning and assessment as excellent.

Why did they choose to use *Numicon*?

Louise Rothwell, Early Years Maths Specialist, explains that ‘*Numicon* was introduced in order to support small groups and due to the positive impact, it was then broadened out to whole-class teaching.’

At SS Aidan and Oswald RC Primary School, *Numicon* is used ‘across the school to address difficulties with place value and gaps in number in general’, but it is equally ‘used to support the gifted and talented children in formulating an explanation when they are tackling problems that require them to explain how they have reached the answer.’

The school use *Numicon* throughout Key Stage 2 for intervention, gifted and talented, as well as more generally to aid children’s understanding across the curriculum, utilising the resources to teach complex concepts, including decimal, fraction and percentage problem-solving.

What impact has *Numicon* had as an intervention resource for struggling learners?

Numicon Closing the Gap ‘is used to support children on the SEN register in Key Stage 2 who have identified gaps in their mathematical understanding.’ They are now progressing well as a consequence.

Louise highlights the example of a child participating in the Every Child Counts Programme who ‘became very confident in the use of *Numicon* to such an extent that they attained two additional sublevels at the end of a 12 week period (1c to 1a).’

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

	2011	2012
Key Stage 1 Level 2+	79%	84%
Key Stage 1 Level 2B+	55%	74%
Key Stage 1 Level 3	7%	20%

	2011	2012
Key Stage 2 Level 4+	88%	84%
Key Stage 2 Level 5	37%	53%



What do SS Aidan & Oswald RC Primary School think are the strengths of *Numicon*?

Louise says that 'due to its visual nature, *Numicon* makes it much easier to assess which children have grasped a concept. It promotes independence and is a tactile aid for children who may otherwise be reluctant to try out their answer or problem-solving technique.'

She adds that the *Numicon* Interactive Whiteboard Software 'enhances whole class teaching and adds a new dimension to the teaching of maths.'

What impact has *Numicon* had on maths teaching and learning?

The school's experience of *Numicon* has been 'overwhelmingly positive for the adults and pupils concerned.' Louise explains that 'it has promoted mathematical dialogue and use of mathematical vocabulary.'

What's more, *Numicon* 'has additionally had an impact on teacher / TA confidence in tackling the teaching of strategies in a much more visual way and pupil confidence as it allows them take risks when trying out new ideas without having to record first.'

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***Numicon* allows pupils to take risks when trying out new ideas.**
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