



THE ACTIVE APPROACHES AT MANOR LEAS JUNIOR ACADEMY

This case study explores how Manor Leas Junior Academy in Lincoln has implemented all three Active approaches including Active Spelling, Active English and Active Number. English Leader, Amelia Hallam, explains the impact the approaches have had at the academy...

ACTIVE ENGLISH

Active English was the first of the approaches to be implemented in January 2017. This approach is now well-embedded, with positive impact being seen across school.

As an academy, the staff have very high aspirations for the children. Active English is evidence-based and research informed, which was an important consideration for the school during the 'explore' phase of implementation. The approach has become embedded in practice across the whole school and this significantly impacts on writing, as the children move from one year group to the next. There is a level of consistency with the programme that the children respond well to, which is also evident in the writing data.



Subject	Statistic	2018-2019		2021-2022		2022-2023		Cohort	2023-2024	
		School	National	School	National	School	National		School	National
Writing	% of pupils achieving the expected standard	87%	78%	81%	69%	75%	71%	70	77%	72%
Writing	% of pupils at greater depth	24%	20%	19%	13%	6%	13%	70	21%	~12%
GPS	% of pupils achieving the expected standard	0%	78%	73%	72%	81%	72%	70	81%	72%
GPS	% of pupils achieving the higher standard	0%	36%	29%	28%	37%	30%	70	44%	~31%
GPS	Average scaled score	-	106.0	105.2	105.0	106.3	105.0	69	106.9	105.0

"At beginning of the year a new child joined my class working at pre-key stage level in writing. By using the Active English approach, the consistency and expectations were quickly embedded; we love to use Dr Sense in our writing from the programme for children to develop the skills of proof-reading. During the year in my class, the child who was working pre-key stage achieved age-related expectations."

English Leader

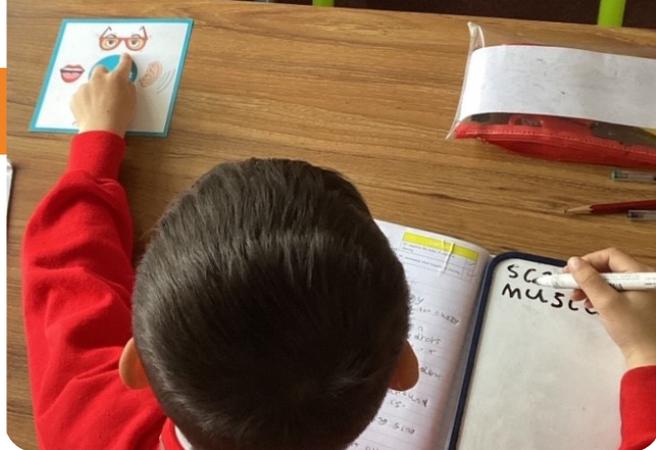
ACTIVE SPELLING

Active Spelling was introduced in September 2023. The consistency with this approach and enjoyment of the lessons inspired the academy look into introducing Active Number.

The academy to use one word to describe the impact of Active Spelling – it's revolutionary! Both staff and pupils get excited by spelling lessons, which is something very different from what has been previously experienced.

Historically at Manor Leas Junior Academy, words would be taught on Monday, sent home, and tested on a Friday. This has now dramatically shifted, fully embracing the Active Spelling approach. What is different now is that the children are digging deeper, learning the strategies so they can become confident, independent spellers. They are finding hooks to learn spellings in which is then being applied into writing.

Just as with Active English, the consistency in routine of Active Spelling has really supported the children. Teachers use formative assessment to support learning within the recall and retrieval section. The children



are becoming more and more skilled as they move up through the school, learning how to independently apply the spelling strategies that they have been taught, including phonology. As a Read Write Inc. school, Manor Leas Junior Academy has found that Active Spelling works well as the next step for the children.

The children are so motivated by spelling lessons now, and really love to use the resources and make up actions to remember the spelling of words. There is a clear routine embedded, with children coming in each day after break-time for Active Spelling. They are focussed and motivated by the progress they are making.

ACTIVE NUMBER

Active Number training took place in November 2023. Although this is the newest of the approaches, the familiarity of structure and consistency of routines is ensuring the approach is becoming embedded quickly, with teachers already seeing impact in number fluency. Just like with Active English and Active Spelling lessons, the children enjoy the routine and structure of Active Number lessons, which are timetabled to take place at the beginning of the school day. Formative assessment works so well with Active Number – teachers can use the medal and trophy, for example, to target particularly groups or individuals, plugging any gaps in knowledge as the pupils move through the slides.

SUSTAINED SUPPORT

Manor Leas Junior Academy highly value the work L.E.A.D. offers as ongoing training for Active schools. Each year an member of Active Team works with the school to deliver bespoke top-up training, which gives staff confidence in the delivery of the approach.

Both in staff meetings and in planning time, we make use of the IRIS platform to check our practice, using the portal of videos which support Active schools. The videos are so useful in ensuring confidence in subject knowledge and lesson delivery.

"It's systematic and cohesive. No matter which class you are in, you can pick up the approach as a teacher or support member of staff and be confident in lesson delivery."

TOP 'TAKE AWAYS' FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

- Attend an Active Open Morning or contact laura@leadtshub.co.uk to arrange a visit to one of the Active schools to see lessons in action.
- When you have implemented an approach, attend the Active network meetings to keep up-to-date with new research and find out about how the approaches are developing.
- Continue to access CPD by having top-up training, which is bespoke to your school need.
- Make use of the IRIS portal as in-school CPD.
- If you are looking for an approach which is evidenced-based, research-informed and going to have a positive impact, then the Active approaches are for you.

