# Case Study

# Trumpington Meadows Primary School

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### Achieving an Ofsted 'Good' Rating with the Support of Sonar Tracker

### The Background

Background: Trumpington Meadows Primary School is a growing school in a new community; opening in 2012 it recently earned its second consecutive 'Good' rating and arguably its best yet.

## The Challenge

With a target to continue to improve outcomes in Maths and English post the prior Ofsted inspection, Trumpington Meadows has worked hard to not only address this and ensure the quality of education, particularly teaching and learning, remains a focal point.

## The Solution: Sonar Tracker

The school's commitment to enhancing the quality of education became evident with its adoption of Sonar Tracker. Having transitioned from Target Tracker just a year before, Trumpington Meadows had to shift its assessment mentality. But with Sonar Tracker, they've implemented:

- Pupil Progress Meetings: Held thrice a year with teachers, these meetings focus on assessing student data recorded on Sonar Tracker. The primary goal is to determine students' academic standing and identify those needing targeted support.

- Addressing Learning Gaps: By leveraging the data from Sonar Tracker, teachers can determine where students might have learning gaps. Interventions are then devised based on these findings. For example, specific phonics intervention groups are formed for younger students struggling with phonics, which affects their spelling and writing.

- Data-Driven Classroom Planning: The data from Sonar Tracker has enabled teachers to make tweaks in their planning and teaching strategy, ensuring that every student's learning needs are met. This strategic approach played a significant role during the Ofsted inspection, as it could showcase how the school's plans and the observed teaching practices aligned seamlessly.

## Results

When inspected, the school received praise for its ability to determine and demonstrate pupils' prerequisite knowledge and use it to inform subsequent learning. The 'Quality of Education' section of the Ofsted report highlighted the school's exemplary teaching and learning practices, which Sonar Tracker has significantly bolstered.

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### The Vision for Growth

Ollie and the Trumpington Meadows team are ambitious. Although they currently host two reception classes, they are not at full capacity. They aspire to grow, mirroring the trajectory of similar schools like John Henry Newman Primary in Peterborough, which expects its student population to double in the next two years.

### Headteacher's Perspective

Reflecting on the inspection and the school's journey, Headteacher Ollie remarked on the expected nature of the inspection and the readiness of the school to demonstrate their commitment to quality education. On using Sonar Tracker, he mentions, "We've got that system quite tight now where we're using the data to then impact upon the practice that we're putting in place in class."

### Adapting to Curriculum Needs

With the introduction of Sonar Tracker, Trumpington Meadows envisioned customising its statements to align more closely with its curriculum which has been developed over recent years. This adaptation was seen as crucial, especially in identifying gaps in learning, a challenge intensified by the pandemic. Ollie highlighted the importance of recognising what students missed due to school closures and adapting the curriculum across the foundation subjects

### Deep Dive into Demographics

A unique aspect of Trumpington Meadows is its varied student demographic. Analysing data using Sonar Tracker enables the school to understand the performances across different groups:

- Pupil Premium Children: Trumpington Meadows stands out in the Cambridge region with a high percentage (50%) of pupil premium students

- EAL (English Language Learners) and Special Needs: The school also has 40+% EAL students and 27% with special educational needs. These figures, atypical for Cambridge, require targeted teaching strategies and added attention to ensure all students achieve their potential.

Sonar Tracker's detailed data analysis facilitates a better understanding of these demographics, offering insights into individual and group performances and highlighting areas for intervention.

### Unique Challenges and Opportunities

Given its location near the University of Cambridge, Trumpington Meadows experiences a high flux of students joining and leaving, adding another layer to its complexity. Moreover, the rising number of students with special needs nationally has also been evident in Trumpington, emphasising the need for tailored teaching methods.

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### Growing and Nurturing:

As a relatively new school in a developing estate, Trumpington Meadows' current enrolment is around 270. With a capacity for 420 students, one of the school's priorities is to attract more enrolments, ensuring the sustainability of its diverse and vibrant learning community.

### Sonar Tracker's Role in Demographic Analysis

One of the school's most significant challenges is its fluctuating student demographics. With Sonar Tracker, Ollie finds ease in delving into these complexities. He commended the software for its user-friendliness and versatility, allowing for specific focus on different demographic nuances. Unique combinations, like assessing pupil premium non-EAL students, provide actionable insights.

### From Data to Actionable Insights

Ollie appreciates the granular level at which Sonar Tracker operates. The software has proven indispensable, whether getting an overview of a single student's performance across the curriculum or looking into the overall progress of different classes and specific groups. It helps pinpoint underperforming groups, leading to tailored interventions.

### Translating Data into Classroom Interventions

Any data analysis tool in education aims to facilitate interventions that drive positive outcomes. While Sonar Tracker's potential for frequent, perhaps weekly, checks is acknowledged, Trumpington Meadows leverages it primarily for half-termly evaluations. These assessments lead to structured conversations about students not progressing as expected, prompting necessary interventions. Teachers have been able to form specific groups with shared needs on Sonar, enabling more targeted support for those who might be lagging.

### Communicating with Stakeholders

Beyond the classroom, Sonar Tracker aids in the school's reporting mechanisms. It has proven invaluable for creating transparent communication lines with governors. While the access granted to governors is limited due to data protection concerns, it still allows these stakeholders to gain insights into the school's progress, ensuring that the school remains accountable and continues to grow in its educational endeavours.

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## Looking Ahead

Headteacher Ollie firmly believes that being data-informed is crucial to delivering quality education. While Trumpington Meadows Primary School has robust ambitions for integrating and using Sonar Tracker, Ollie emphasises the importance of balancing efficacy with workload. This ensures the teaching staff isn't overwhelmed and the software's usage remains productive and practical.

One of the immediate challenges on the horizon is the KS2 SATs for 2024. The baseline assessments and the subsequent targets set by the Year Six teacher will play a role in determining which students need supplemental support or 'booster groups', led by the assistant head.

The real-time and user-friendly nature of Sonar Tracker is invaluable here. The software enables the staff to discern gaps in a student's knowledge, such as reading, writing, or maths performance discrepancies. Ollie highlighted a notable instance where the Venn diagram feature of the software flagged students who excelled in reading and writing but lagged in Maths. Such insights help staff devise targeted interventions, thus preventing uneven academic performance. The goal is to ensure every child is holistically developed rather than showcasing excellence in isolated subjects.

Ollie made an astute observation: the challenges faced by many students can be traced back to their disrupted education a few years ago. The writing gap, especially evident between genders, even at a young age, is a broader national concern. Sonar Tracker has brought such patterns to the forefront, enabling educators to focus on areas that require the most attention.

## Conclusion

At the heart of Trumpington Meadows Primary School's journey towards educational excellence lies the instrumental role of Sonar Tracker. This software is not merely a tool but a steadfast companion, enabling the school to navigate the multifaceted needs of its diverse student demographic. With a blend of resilience, adaptability, and data-driven decision-making, the school has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to ensuring no student is left behind.

By tailoring educational experiences and proactively addressing individual needs, Trumpington Meadows stands as a testament to the potential of integrating technology with pedagogy, paving the way for a bright future and consistently achieving educational milestones, as reflected in their 'Good' Ofsted rating.

# Juniper

# Need help?

# Talk to a Sonar Tracker expert.

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