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Case study

Warden Hill Junior School







Warden Hill Junior School

Success Story: Warden Hill Junior School's Triumph with Sonar Tracker

The background

Warden Hill Junior School, located at Birdsfoot Lane, Luton, Bedfordshire, is a community primary school serving children aged 7 to 11. It is under the local authority of Luton and is led by headteacher Mrs Rebecca Lightfoot. The school has a capacity of 480.

The school's latest Ofsted inspection, conducted on June 20-21, 2023, resulted in a 'Good' rating. The report highlighted the leadership's effective actions in enhancing teachers' subject knowledge and assessment practices.

Of its student population, 24.7% are eligible for free school meals, slightly below the national average for primary schools. The school has no special classes or resourced provision for SEN (Special Educational Needs), but 3.3% of its pupils have an SEN Education, Health and Care Plan, and 20.4% receive SEN Support.

Regarding diversity, a significant portion of the student body (61.9%) has a first language other than English, considerably higher than the national average for primary schools. This diversity is reflected in the school's curriculum and learning environment. Disadvantaged pupils at Warden Hill Junior School (those eligible for free school meals at any time during the last 6 years or in care) show progress scores in reading, writing, and maths that compare favourably with local and national averages.

The school's academic profile shows that 59% of its pupils meet the expected reading, writing, and maths standards, slightly below the local authority and national averages. However, pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL) perform particularly well, with 67% meeting the expected standards, and their average scores in reading and maths are comparable to those of non-EAL pupils.

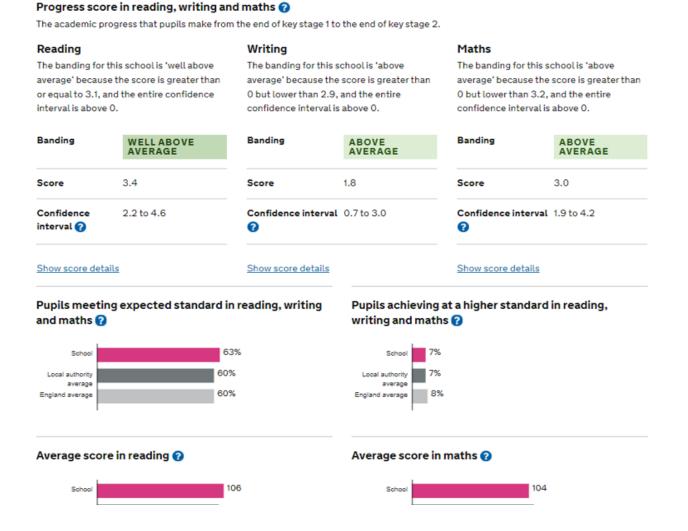
Warden Hill Junior School offers a diverse, inclusive learning environment that focuses on continuous improvement in teaching and student performance. Its leadership emphasises enhancing teachers' expertise and noticing the progress of disadvantaged and EAL pupils, which are significant aspects of its educational provision.



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Embracing Change for Exceptional Results

"You'll be able to progress not just the attainment but some of the subtle increases."

Nestled in Luton, Bedfordshire, Warden Hill Junior School, led by the dynamic Mrs Rebecca Lightfoot, is a beacon of educational excellence for children aged 7-11. The school's journey towards academic brilliance is noteworthy, with a distinctive demographic blend, including a high percentage of English as an Additional Language (EAL) students and a commendable reading, writing, and maths record. A key element in this journey is their transition to Sonar quotation mark Tracker, an advanced pupil progress-tracking solution provided by Juniper Education.



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Mr. Tim Hayden, the assistant head teacher at Warden Hill, played a pivotal role in this transformation. Involved in the beta testing of Sonar Tracker, he recognised its potential early on. His insights, drawn from a school with complex demographics but impressive progress scores, offer a compelling story of educational advancement and technology's role in it.

Strategic Transition to Superior Tracking

"The reports are just going to save so many hours."

The decision to shift from Classroom Monitor to Sonar Tracker was strategic. Sonar Tracker's alignment with Warden Hill's unique assessment approach made it an obvious choice. Mr Hayden highlighted the ease of use and the alignment of Sonar Tracker with their assessment philosophy. Unlike Classroom Monitor, which was perceived as too labour-intensive, particularly for foundation subjects, Sonar Tracker streamlined the process, enabling more efficient tracking of both attainment and subtle progress nuances.

The Impact of Data-Driven Decision Making

"The addition of being able to input the test scores is really useful for us."

Warden Hill's approach to assessment, as described by Mr Hayden, is refreshingly pragmatic. With a focus on testing and targeted interventions, the school has successfully navigated the challenges its diverse student population poses.

The introduction of Sonar Tracker has amplified this impact. It facilitates rapid identification of student groups needing interventions – a capability especially valuable in managing the diverse needs at Warden Hill.

Unique Features and Tangible Benefits

"The report that I really like is the Venn diagram, which you can produce by class."

Mr. Hayden speaks highly of Sonar Tracker's features, particularly its reporting capabilities. The Venn diagram reports, for example, provide valuable insights into students' competencies across subjects, guiding teachers in creating effective intervention strategies. This feature aligns perfectly with Warden Hill's timely and precise academic support ethos.



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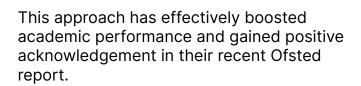
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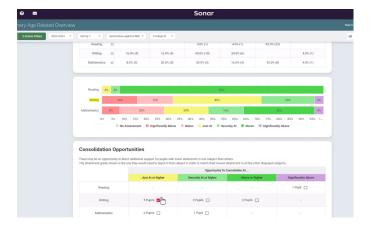
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Seamless Integration and Future-Oriented Approach

"It's so easy to use, and it's very easy to fill in that data."

The transition to Sonar Tracker, though sudden due to Classroom Monitor's phaseout, was a blessing in disguise. It pushed the school to adopt a more advanced, intuitive system. Mr Hayden's proactive steps ensured a smooth transition, setting a robust platform for his successor and ensuring continuity in the school's assessment culture.





Mathematics 4.0% (1) pupils Mathematics 4.0% (1) pupils Name Reading Writing Mathematics Single Name Reading Writing Mathematics Course Course</

Commendable Outcomes and Ofsted Recognition

"We can run these reports, identify the little groups and act upon it really quickly."

Warden Hill's remarkable progress, particularly in reading where they exceed national averages, is a testament to their effective use of data-driven strategies, now augmented by Sonar Tracker

Conclusion: A Beacon for Others

Warden Hill Junior School's story, as narrated by Mr. Hayden, is not just about a software transition; it's a narrative of embracing change, leveraging technology, and maintaining a steadfast commitment to academic excellence. As part of this journey, Sonar Tracker has proven to be more than just a tool; it's a catalyst for educational transformation. This story, a beacon for other primary schools, showcases the power of strategic technology adoption in navigating complex educational landscapes and achieving remarkable outcomes.



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