



RM Easimaths in Scotland

As part of the Glow provision all primary schools, and some secondary schools, in South Lanarkshire authority have access to RM Easimaths, an online maths programme, mapped to the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence. With over 8,000 exciting topics covering ages 4 – 11, it offers teachers an effective online tool with which to teach core maths skills in a safe, fun and engaging environment, accelerating pupils' learning, and providing easy to use reports for teachers.

The RM Easimaths team spent two days visiting some of the schools in South Lanarkshire to see what they thought of RM Easimaths.

Visit one – Canberra Primary School

Our first visit took us to Canberra Primary a large school located in the Westwood area of East Kilbride. We met Miss Donaldson a P6 teacher and the ICT coordinator. She tells us how they have introduced RM Easimaths throughout the whole school after being a big advocate of its predecessor RM Maths.

“It’s great that RM Easimaths is available to the whole school, when we had RM Maths we had a limited number of licences and struggled to get everyone on for 15 minutes 3 times a week.”

All students now have unlimited access to RM Easimaths. The school have initially focussed on pupils who are working above or below their expected level.

“We can allow these students to work at the level they should be without disturbing the class and we know that we are supporting them as much as we can.”

She has also been impressed by the reporting functionality and the way that RM Easimaths identifies problem areas that reinforces the teachers view of the pupil.

“The fact the system has identified the same areas as well, means we can really focus on those areas with the students. Time came up as a problem area for many of the students so we have had a real push on this as a class and they are now all improved.”

The RM Easimaths team observed P6 students using the system; it was great to see them engaging with the system and quietly getting on with their 15 minute session.

Visit Two – Law Primary School

Our second visit took us to Law Primary School a smaller primary located near Carluke. We meet Karen Shields and her P6 class who showed us how they use RM Easimaths. The class take it in turns for their sessions due to the computers available, they have strict instructions not to help each other and really stick to this.

The school have started using RM Easimaths with their P6 students. The students were placed at a level where they would feel confident with the system to allow them to reinforce some of the skills they had already learnt and to get used to the system.

“Straight away the students engaged with the system and loved the characters... they also really like seeing their own progress.”

The school initially started using the RM Easimaths just within the school however they have now set it as twice weekly homework for those students with access to the internet at home.

“We’ve already seen progress being made for those students and it has really boosted their confidence.”

Karen is also keen to tell us how the audio has helped a couple of her students who struggle with reading but are very capable at maths.

“The audio is nice because it means these students are able to operate at a level they should be and are not held back by their reading ability.”

We also spoke to the head teacher Mrs Quinn who was keen to stress how valuable the reporting tools are.

“Karen and I are able to review the reports from RM Easimaths in her forward plan and discuss those (problem) areas, and look to include ways in which we can adjust our planning to make sure those needs are being met. Which is great for us to get a fuller picture of children’s learning.”

After their initial success, the school are now looking to roll out RM Easimaths to the rest of the pupils, and will look to have every student in the school using RM Easimaths by the end of 2015.

Visit Three - St Elizabeth’s Primary School

St Elizabeth’s is the largest of the schools we visited with 273 pupils on the roll. A Catholic school in Hamilton, the school has been awarded eco status. We met Christine Emmett who has been at the school for 30 years and is the school principal and P3/P4 class teacher.

She is keen to point out that the school have not been using it as much as they could since the Christmas break but that they had seen some good progress before then. We helped her review the Pupil Activities Snapshot report, which provides a summary of pupil’s performance. Based on the report we were able to demonstrate that pupils were operating at a level appropriate for them, not too easy and not too hard, keeping their motivation high.

“We’ve found the reports very useful at parent’s evenings as the reports allows us to show really tangible progress.”

We were then introduced to her class, who are clearly engaged and enthralled by their teacher! We opened the floor to the class for their comments on RM Easimaths and what they think of it. They’re are keen to tell us ways we can extend Flingaball (the end of session game) but also why they love RM Easimaths.

“I love RM Easimaths, I really like maths anyway and this has made it better!”

“RM Easimaths is just brilliant I was really rubbish at the start but it has really improved my maths.”

“I like RM Easimaths ‘cause it’s really fun and I’m sure I wouldn’t be on the high levels without it.”

Visit Four - St Louises’ Primary school

Our fourth visit was to St Louises’ Primary school, a Catholic school in East Kilbride. We were welcomed by the head teacher Mrs Judge who showed us around the school. The school is completely open plan which leads to a lovely atmosphere as students learn in their classrooms.

“ We’re very lucky here our school was redeveloped about 2 years ago which allowed us to update all the technology which means we have the infrastructure to deliver things like RM Easimaths.”

We visited Mrs Docherty the P4/P5 teacher, we want to chat directly to her students about how they use RM Easimaths and why they like it. After a quick introduction to the class fish, the students get to work on RM Easimaths.

As the students login to the system through Glow they are quick to start their 15 minute sessions. During the session we speak to the students and they tell us how much they enjoy RM Easimaths.

“I love the characters they make it easy for me to learn maths.”

“My times tables are much better now I use RM Easimaths.”

“I like doing it at home with my Mum I think it’s made my maths much better.”

The school are starting to see real progression using RM Easimaths with more and more gaining the built in certificates for their mastered skills. One student decided to do a double session in the lesson, so he could earn his first certificate.

Visit Five - Crosshouse Primary School

Our fifth and final visit was to Crosshouse Primary School another large primary school in East Kilbride we meet Mrs Noon (P5 class teacher) and Mr Owen (P2 class teacher) both of their classes have been using RM Easimaths for 6 months.

We visited Mr Owens class first, his students are already getting on with their sessions quietly using headphones his students are younger than the others we’ve seen on our visits and it’s great to see the programme keeping them engaged.

“We introduced the head phones as it keeps the students engaged with the system, they really focus on the questions when they are using them.”

One of the students tells us

“I love RM Easimaths, Swing is my favourite character.”

We then head up to Mrs Noon’s Class who have already started their RM Easimaths session. These students are older but still engaged with the system.

“I think RM Easimaths is really good I like the way it gives me the chance to make a mistake and tries to explain the questions to me again. It’s definitely given me a better understanding of maths.”

It’s great to see this school using RM Easimaths effectively across the whole school and with different age groups.



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