

# Primary – Developing TFM

**“The change in this school has been transformational .”**

Nicky Brice. Headteacher, Bream Church of England Primary School



## Striving to be 'Good'

### School

Bream Church of England Primary School, Forest of Dean Gloucestershire

#### Children at the heart of every decision

Bream Church of England Primary School has been on an incredible journey; making transformational changes that have enabled the school to achieve a 'Good' Ofsted rating for the first time in over 20 years. The leadership of Headteacher Nicky Brice, and her determination to turn things around for all children, has been a driving factor in effecting change. Nicky set out a clear, three-year process that first focused on the culture and beliefs of children, staff and parents, and then on the curriculum - with Maths being a high priority. Nicky was very clear that the children were at the heart of every decision.

In 2021, Bream joined the Severn Federation Multi Academy Trust. Having previously run mixed age classes, the Trust supported the school to teach in single year classes - even though numbers on role didn't support this.

Once the conditions for change were right, Nicky took the decision to sign up for the Teaching for Mastery (TfM) programme with GLOW Maths Hub in 2023. In understanding the school's journey, the team at GLOW provided additional support from one of its most experienced Mastery Specialists.

### Head Teacher

Nicky Brice

#### Making it all add up

In 2023, age related expectations for maths at the end of KS2 was 43%. Nicky and Maths Lead, Lianne Griffin, set out the key areas for development for the teaching of maths at Bream:

- Pupil engagement during the teaching part of a lesson through active learning
- The use of representations and manipulatives
- Pupil mindsets – developing resilient maths learners
- Opportunities for retrieval and practise in the maths curriculum

### Maths Lead

Lianne Griffin



**“Staff are thinking more carefully about their teaching, using shorter bursts ensuring children understand”** *Leanne Griffin, Maths Lead.*

## Developing teaching for Mastery

### **Investing in Maths leadership**

Nicky feels one of the biggest success factors success was investment in staff; giving them the time to investigate and explore the changes they were making to their practice. This has brought about a better understanding in the long term.

Seeing lessons in action and having the opportunity to share practice with other teachers was another important element of the TfM programme. This contributed to the development of active learning, with the importance of using representations and manipulatives in Maths lessons. Learning at staff meetings and INSET days has enabled all staff to build confidence in modelling and using a range of representations, at appropriate stages during a lesson.

A toolkit for staff was introduced, to be used during lessons to develop teacher craft and pupil engagement. This has led to a range of approaches being used by all staff – removing passive learning and expecting all children to be on the learning journey together.

Lianne explained her Maths Hub experience as collaborative process - working with not done to. She feels she has developed as a Subject Leader because of the support and her participation in the TfM programme and NPQ Leading Primary Maths, facilitated by the Hub.

### **Building confident mathematicians**

Pupils are more active; they are talking confidently with their class partners and writing on whiteboards using representations to show their understanding. During the recent Ofsted inspection in 2024, it was commented how this new approach:

“..is enabling pupils to explore their understanding of the concept being taught during lessons, leading to greater confidence during independent work especially when asked to reason and solve problems by applying what they have learnt”.

The 3-year picture for Maths attainment is improving year on year with KS2 ARE attainment now at 72%, with 44% of SEND pupils achieving ARE in 2024. The school also shares a good picture of attainment across all year groups. Having had such fantastic success with developing Maths in their setting, the school and maths lead are now supporting other schools in the Trust on their own journeys.

## Mastery Specialists

Sheralee Meek & Martin Adsett