



'The children loved the books and really enjoyed the concept of 'doing' whilst reading.'

'Even the higher ability students found the concept interesting and looked forward to the lesson.'

The Wainfleet Magdalen

Church of England/Methodist School

Teacher name	<i>Mrs Nicola Maycock</i>
Year	<i>Year 5</i>
Average class size	<i>30</i>
Ability	<i>Wide range of abilities, from levels 1 – 5, averaging around 3b</i>



How was SignSpell incorporated within the curriculum?

Mrs Maycock used SignSpell with her large, mixed ability class, for the last half an hour of the day (usually after P.E.) to calm the children down and finish the school day. SignSpell was also used within the children's own quiet reading time, and she suggests Golden Time and PHSE would be a nice opportunities to use the resources also.

'Any spare time the children have, they ask to read the SignSpell books, it has been a big hit!'

Which areas of development did SignSpell support?

SignSpell is a multi-purpose resource and can be adapted to help accelerate many areas of learning. Mrs Maycock found it works successfully as a spelling strategy especially for lower ability students, and felt it helps to build on social skills such as working in groups, sharing and effective communication.

'Tricky words and spellings are a lot easier to remember if you put hand actions to them. And the fact that the signs are British Sign Language and can be used in the real world is a real benefit.'

As well as helping in academic subjects such as literacy, SignSpell has been designed to introduce the world of deaf communication to children. After using the materials the teacher perceived the children to be much more aware of the deaf world around them, other people's lives and different forms of language in general.

Teacher's opinion:

'I was surprised how quickly the children have picked up signing and can sign without looking at the images. The books are a nice size for the classroom and all the resources complement each other well – I will definitely be continuing the use of SignSpell in my classroom in the future!'

'I found the flash cards to be very useful, especially if the IWB was already in use. They are visual and easy to hand, which is always a benefit. My teaching assistant found them to be beneficial when working in a smaller group too.'

'The teaching notes are very beneficial and convenient. They are set out in a familiar way, like a lesson plan. Everything I could need was included, with a lot of variation and that definitely saved me time!'

Children's view:

Overall, SignSpell was enjoyed by all. The aliens appealed to year 5 boys especially.

'They can all sign their names and are starting to string words together. We have a free computer session some lunch times and the children have gone on looking for websites to find out more about BSL.'

'The children have taken it upon themselves to learn more about and explore sign language. It has become a topic within the class that everyone is interested in, and they love sharing what they have learnt with family and friends.'

'Although some higher ability children found the story line basic, the actual signs were intriguing. They liked to jump from sign to sign so they could learn them quickly and play the games within the story.'

Continuing the use of SignSpell...

Kinaesthetic components within teaching have always been successful; the more links a child can make to a new piece of information the easier it is to remember. SignSpell is no exception to this rule and Miss Maycock has found it helps within areas of literacy.

'Since SignSpell has worked so well with a larger class, I am looking into using the resources with a smaller group of children who struggle with their reading and spelling, providing a different technique to tackle literacy skills.'

