

“I feel more knowledgeable as a Maths Subject Leader, to recognise good practice in my own classroom, and others, and better equipped to support my colleagues.”

Fran Cinderey - Maths Lead, St White's Primary School

Support4All. For life.

Fran Cinderey is a Deputy Headteacher with a passion for maths. In 2023, she became Maths Subject Lead at her school, St White's Primary. Whilst Fran has a degree in maths, and lots of leadership experience, this was her first time as a Maths Lead. New to role, Fran had two key priorities: to identify and explore how to further improve the teaching of maths; and to gain the necessary knowledge/resources to enable her to be the very best Maths Lead. Knowing that St White's had an ongoing partnership with the GLOW Maths Hub, Fran was eager to understand how the Hub could support her personal/professional development, that of her colleagues and how it could help them deliver even better outcomes for children, in the classroom.

Life-long learning and support4All

One of the many benefits of working with GLOW, is that the relationship isn't limited to a one- or two-year training event; it's for life! Having started its Teaching for Mastery (TfM) journey in 2018-19, St White's continued to get involved in CPD opportunities with GLOW – with staff members attending GLOW events/meetings/networks. So, Fran looked at what the Hub could offer and how it might enable her to meet the school's maths priorities for the year ahead, as well as support her personal development as Maths Lead.

Three elements of the programme stood out: Local Subject Leader Network meetings – for Fran's development in role; the Oracy Research and Innovation Work Group (RIWG); and the Mastering Number Parent Project – for improved school/pupil outcomes. Fran also encouraged her colleagues to sign-up for specific Subject Knowledge and Collaborative Planning sessions to ensure they continued their professional development and had the opportunity to work collaboratively with other schools.

Let's talk maths: Bringing maths oracy to the classroom

St White's is a [Voice 21](#) school and was already in a good place when it came to oracy. However, it hadn't focused exclusively on oracy in maths. Through her involvement in GLOW's Oracy RIWG, Fran was able to bring her knowledge and experience of effective strategies to the group. Being part of a team, she was able to explore and build on these, and other, strategies and on how to apply them effectively; supporting pupils to develop maths oracy and reasoning skills in the classroom.

As a result, Fran has a better understanding of how to use talk more effectively in maths, using a collaborative approach and making paired talk more purposeful. The next step is to incorporate this learning into lesson design. Fran is also looking to use this approach to give teachers the confidence and belief to move away from 'the scheme', and plan lessons with more effective opportunities for talk.



School

St White's Primary
Forest of Dean
Gloucestershire

Head Teacher

Claire Tilling

Maths Lead

Fran Cinderey



The parent project

Maths@home

Research tells us that the level of parental support and engagement has a significant part to play in a child's achievement at school. For St White's, engaging its parents had always been a bit of a challenge and Fran was determined to make a difference. GLOW's Mastering Number Parent Project offered an approach Fran felt would work – providing a framework to encourage involvement and participation by parents. Learning from previous initiatives like this, Fran tried a new, flexible approach – offering a choice of workshop sessions to parents, in the hope that most would be able to attend at least one. This, coupled with Fran's friendly and persistent approach, saw an excellent turn-out, and only a handful of parents couldn't make it on the day.

Although, it's too early to capture the long-term impact, the initial feedback's been great. Here's what parents are saying:

- the workshop sessions were interesting and informative
- it has encouraged them to talk about maths with their children
- their children are more confident in maths
- children are engaging with them about maths at home, when normally they wouldn't have

The school is hoping to build on the success of the workshop model to enable and encourage parents to support their children at home. The format of the workshops, with activities to complete rather than worksheets, has been particularly effective and something Fran is looking to take further.

Getting personal

St White's is an excellent example of how making the most of your relationship with your local Maths Hub can bring significant benefits for your school. On a more personal level, Fran has valued the opportunities for her own development, too. Becoming part of a Maths Subject Leader network has been a game-changer. Learning from her peers, it's helped to shape and prioritise her professional needs, and the needs of the school.

Her participation in the Oracy RIWG, was another great opportunity - enabling Fran to learn from practice exchange with other teachers. This piece of work also enabled Fran to reflect on the importance of slowing down, recognising that it takes time to understand what a good lesson looks like. This, in turn, has been formative in her development as a maths leader. Fran has also become something of a local expert on the topic of oracy and was invited to share her experiences at a recent Gloucestershire Maths Subject Leader Network meeting.