

Hear from our Sumdog schools: Danii Bairner at Strathblane Primary School, Strathblane, Scotland

Danii Bairner is a Principal Teacher and Class Teacher at Strathblane Primary School in Strathblane, Scotland. Danii has been teaching for 17 years.

About the school

Strathblane Primary School is a mixed state school situated in the south-western part of Stirling council area. The pupil population is approximately 173, with a small percentage of pupils qualifying for Pupil Equity Funding. The school has been using Sumdog for 7 years.

Meeting the needs of Strathblane

In 2017, we began using Sumdog to enhance our approach to maths education, particularly as we navigated funding limitations. Before Sumdog, we relied on multiple online subscription platforms to support learning, which was neither cost-effective nor efficient. Sumdog's tailored diagnostic assessments and automatic tracking proved to be a game-changer, allowing us to consolidate our resources into a single, impactful solution. With Pupil Equity Funding now directed towards hiring additional teaching staff, Sumdog continues to be an invaluable tool for differentiation and assessment, ensuring every learner gets the support they need.

Transforming maths lessons and improving outcomes

At Strathblane, we group children by ability and provide differentiated lessons that target specific learning levels. Sumdog seamlessly integrates into this structure through activity-based work, where

pupils consolidate their learning through games and challenges. Whether practising times tables, tackling fractions, or preparing for an end-of-unit assessment, Sumdog keeps children engaged and motivated. Its ease of tracking and monitoring further enhances our teaching approach. With just a few clicks, I can see detailed reports on student progress, pinpoint which questions they find challenging, and analyse task completion rates. This data not only informs my teaching but also helps me plan future lessons tailored to class needs, fostering better outcomes for both individual pupils and the class as a whole.

Positive impact on engagement and attitudes

Since introducing Sumdog, I have witnessed a noticeable improvement in pupils' attitudes towards maths. By incorporating Sumdog into rotating lessons, we've made learning maths more enjoyable and less intimidating for our pupils. The multiplayer games and live leaderboards during contests are favourites in particular, sparking enthusiasm and teamwork - with our school even winning contests in the past! The combination of fun, interactive activities with robust data-driven insights has transformed how we approach maths education at Strathblane Primary School, making Sumdog an essential in our teaching toolkit.