

**In conjunction with  
WORCESTERSHIRE  
LOCAL AUTHORITY**



**WORCESTERSHIRE STUDENT  
IMPROVEMENT RESEARCH**

**OVERVIEW DOCUMENT**

**Prepared by:**  
**Date:**

**EducationCity.com**  
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### Executive Summary

- **Using EducationCity.com in a strategic way, using the SuccessTracker progress tracker, 50% of the sample improved on the level predicted for them by their teachers.**
- **Of the tests that showed an improvement, the average improvement represented an increase of 1.46 sublevels. This would be the difference between a child getting Level 3b and Level 4c.** The average improvement for Numeracy, Literacy and Science was 1.52 sublevels, 1.14 sublevels and 1.72 sublevels respectively.
- **Overall, the average improvement represented half a sublevel.** The average improvement for Numeracy, Literacy and Science was 0.87 of a sublevel, 0.14 of a sublevel and 0.70 of a sublevel respectively.
- The greatest improvement made by any individual pupils in Numeracy, Literacy and Science was 5 sublevels, 2 sublevels and 3 sublevels respectively.
- EducationCity.com is valued as a classroom resource. From the teacher's perspective, it is easy to use, labour-saving in terms of marking and seen to engender a feeling of responsibility amongst the children towards their own learning. The myCity and SuccessTracker features were especially valued. From a pupil's perspective, the EducationCity.com activities are considered significantly more fun than activity sets and worksheets.

## Background

Worcestershire is a mainly rural county with six towns in addition to the city of Worcester. It is a relatively affluent county, although there are pockets of deprivation. Unemployment in the county is lower than the national average but there are few large employers in the area.

According to the Worcestershire Local Education Authority Inspection Report of January 2004:-

- The school age population, of 79,726, is served by 184 primary schools, 33 middle schools, 29 secondary schools, 11 special schools and 9 pupil referral units.
- Standards of attainment within the schools are generally in line with national averages and those in authorities deemed to be similar, including Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, West Sussex, Warwickshire, Cheshire, Gloucestershire, East Riding of Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Bedfordshire and Shropshire.
- Over the last four years, there has been improvement in Key Stages 1 to 3 and for higher attaining pupils at GCSE.

## Introduction

In January 2006, six Worcestershire schools were enlisted by Worcestershire LA to help EducationCity.com assess how using EducationCity.com in a targeted manner can positively impact Year 6 classes preparing for their SAT exams.

The six schools involved in the study were:

- Claines CE Primary School, Worcester
- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Worcester
- Lyppard Grange Primary School, Worcester
- Madresfield CofE Primary School, Malvern
- Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Primary, Worcester
- St George's Catholic Primary School, Barbourne

Different schools agreed to monitor different subjects.

## Process

At the beginning of the process in January, all the schools involved in the study met for a seminar on the EducationCity.com resource.

They were given a tutorial on how to use:-

- EducationCity.com's SuccessTracker reporting feature, so that they could understand all the reporting, in particular, the Period and Detailed reports and
- the myCity feature, to help them formulate individual development plans.

The schools were also asked at this meeting to predict and document the levels and sublevels that they anticipated their pupils would achieve in their June SATs.

Upon returning to their schools, the teachers then used EducationCity.com with their classes and during the period of the study, the children's scores were saved, development plans created and then their actual SATs results compared to those predicted.

## Data Collected

Each time schools logged in and saved scores to the EducationCity.com resource, this registered on EducationCity.com's Management Information System (MIS). The table below shows the number of scores saved to each school:

School Name	EducationCity.com Login Name	Number of Scores Saved
St George's	855St Georges	1,496
St. Joseph's	885Droitwich St Josephs	1,310
Claines	885Claines	643
Lyppard Grange	885Lyppard Grange	230
Our Lady Queen of Peace	855Our Lady Queen of Peace	111
Madresfield	885madresfield	57

Actual results achieved in the June SATs were requested from St George's, St Joseph's and Claines. The remaining three schools were not requested to provide this information as their usage figures demonstrated they had not used EducationCity.com in the targeted way indicated above.

The subjects monitored by the three qualifying schools are given below:

School Name	Numeracy	Literacy	Science
Claines	Yes	Yes	No
St George's	No	No	Yes
St. Joseph's	Yes	Yes	No

In total, 84 pupils were involved in the research, who performed 140 tests. The 140 tests were split between Numeracy, Literacy and Science as follows:

	No. of pupils
Numeracy	54
Literacy	56
Science	30
	<b>140</b>

## Results

### Percentage of pupils improving

Further to the targeted use of EducationCity.com using SuccessTracker and myCity, the following proportion of the classes reported improved results or the same results as predicted. Please note, all improvements are included, be they improvements of one sublevel or multiple sublevels.

	Improvement				Same			
	Numeracy	Literacy	Science	AVERAGE	Numeracy	Literacy	Science	AVERAGE
Claines CofE Primary School	71%	46%	n/a		21%	43%	n/a	
St George's RC School	n/a	n/a	60%		n/a	n/a	30%	
St Joseph's School	35%	29%	n/a		50%	39%	n/a	
<b>AVERAGE</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>36%</b>

## Extent of Improvement

### - Improvers -

The table below shows the improvement in grades resulting from using EducationCity.com, amongst the improvers. Of the 68 tests, which reported improvements over and above what was predicted, the average improvement amounted to 1.46 sublevels. **For clarity, this would be the difference between one child improving from Level 3b to Level 4c, and another improving from Level 5c to Level 5a.**

	Total no. of sublevels improved	No. of tests	Av. Level Improvement
Numeracy	44	29	1.52
Literacy	24	21	1.14
Science	31	18	1.72
	<b>99</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>1.46</b>

The distribution of these improvements is shown below:

	Improvement in terms of sublevels	No. of tests improved	% of improvers by subject
Numeracy	5	1	3%
	3	2	7%
	2	7	24%
	1	19	66%
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>29</b>	<b>100%</b>
Literacy	2	3	14%
	1	18	86%
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>100%</b>
Science	3	4	22%
	2	5	28%
	1	9	50%
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>18</b>	<b>100%</b>

### - Overall -

The table below shows the overall improvement in grades resulting from using EducationCity.com. Of the 140 tests within the study, the average improvement amounted to 0.51 sublevels. **For clarity, this would be the difference between a child improving from a high Level 3a to Level 4c.**

	Average sublevel improvement	No. of tests	Av. Level Improvement
Numeracy	38	54	0.70
Literacy	8	56	0.14
Science	26	30	0.87
	<b>72</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>0.51</b>

## Conclusions

- **EducationCity.com has a positive and measurable effect on pupils' performance when used in a targeted way prior to SATs exams.** 50% of the sample of 140 tests reported higher scores than they were predicted to achieve.
- **Of the tests that showed an improvement, the average improvement represented an increase of 1.46 sublevels. This would be the difference between a child getting Level 3b and Level 4c.** The average improvement for Numeracy, Literacy and Science was 1.52 sublevels, 1.14 sublevels and 1.72 sublevels respectively.
- **Overall, the average improvement represented half a sublevel.** The average improvement for Numeracy, Literacy and Science was 0.87 of a sublevel, 0.14 of a sublevel and 0.70 of a sublevel respectively.
- The greatest improvement made by any individual pupils in Numeracy, Literacy and Science was 5 sublevels, 2 sublevels and 3 sublevels respectively.
- From a teacher's perspective, EducationCity.com is valued as a classroom resource. It is easy to use, labour-saving in terms of marking and seen to engender a feeling of responsibility amongst the children towards their own learning. The myCity and SuccessTracker features were especially valued. Moreover, the EducationCity.com activities are loved by the children and are considered significantly more fun than activity sets and worksheets.

## Appendices:

- Schools' Contact Details
- Schools' Predicted and Actual Results
- Schools' Written Feedback

## Appendix A: Schools' Contact Details

Contact Name	School Name	Contact Details
Paul Fearn	Claines CE Primary School	Tel: 01905 451 235 Email: office@claines.worcs.sch.uk
Alex Mays	Lyppard Grange Primary School	Tel: 01905 729 383 Email: office@lyppardgrange.sch.worcs.uk
Martyn Speakman	Madresfield CofE Primary School	Tel: 01684 573 620 Email: office@madresfield.worcs.sch.uk
Miss G Stanton	Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Primary School	Tel: 01905 421 409 Email: admin@ourlady.worcs.sch.uk
Mike Painter	St George's Catholic Primary School	Tel: 01905 25 841 Email: painter@st-georgescatholic.worcs.sch.uk
Pauline Turner	St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Tel: 01905 773 572 Email: pturner@st-josephs-droitwich.worcs.sch.uk

## Appendix B: Schools' Predicted and Actual Results

### Claines CE Primary School

Year	Surname	Forename	Predicted Results		Actual Results	
			Literacy	Numeracy	Literacy	Numeracy
Year 6	-	-	4b	4b	4a (+1)	4b (-)
Year 6	-	-	4b	4b	4a (+1)	4c (-1)
Year 6	-	-	3a	3a	4c (+1)	4c (+1)
Year 6	-	-	4a	5c	5c (+1)	5b (+1)
Year 6	-	-	5b	5b	5b (-)	5a (+1)
Year 6	-	-	3a	4c	4c (+1)	4b (+1)
Year 6	-	-	4b	4b	4a (+1)	4a (+1)
Year 6	-	-	5c	5c	5c (-)	5c (-)
Year 6	-	-	4b	4c	4a (+1)	4a (+2)
Year 6	-	-	4a	4b	4a (-)	4a (+1)
Year 6	-	-	5b	5b	5b (-)	5a (+1)
Year 6	-	-	4c	4b	4b (+1)	4b (-)
Year 6	-	-	5b	5c	5b (-)	5a (+2)
Year 6	-	-	5b	5b	5c (-1)	5a (+1)
Year 6	-	-	3a	4b	4c (+1)	4b (-)
Year 6	-	-	4a	4a	4b (-1)	5c (+1)
Year 6	-	-	5a	5b	5a (-)	5a (+1)
Year 6	-	-	5b	5c	5b (-)	5a (+2)
Year 6	-	-	4a	4b	4a (-)	4c (-1)
Year 6	-	-	4a	3b	5c (+1)	5c (+5)
Year 6	-	-	2b	2b	B (n/a)	B (n/a)
Year 6	-	-	5a	5b	5a (-)	5b (-)
Year 6	-	-	5a	5b	5a (-)	5a (+1)
Year 6	-	-	3b	3c	3a (+1)	3 (-)
Year 6	-	-	4a	4b	5b (+2)	4a (+1)
Year 6	-	-	5c	4a	5c (-)	5a (+3)
Year 6	-	-	5c	4a	5c (-)	5b (+2)
Year 6	-	-	5b	4a	5c (-1)	5b (+2)
Year 6	-	-	4a	4a	5c (+1)	5c (+1)

### St. George's Catholic Primary School

Year	Surname	Forename	Predicted Results	Actual Results
			Science	Science
Year 6	-	-	3c	3a (+2)
Year 6	-	-	4b	4b (-)
Year 6	-	-	5c	5a (+2)
Year 6	-	-	5a	5c (-2)
Year 6	-	-	5c	5c (-)
Year 6	-	-	4c	4b (+1)
Year 6	-	-	5c	5a (+2)
Year 6	-	-	4c	4a (+2)
Year 6	-	-	5a	5a (-)
Year 6	-	-	5c	4b (-2)
Year 6	-	-	5a	5a (-)
Year 6	-	-	4c	4c (-)
Year 6	-	-	5b	5a (+1)
Year 6	-	-	5b	5a (+1)
Year 6	-	-	5a	5a (-)
Year 6	-	-	3c	4c (+3)
Year 6	-	-	3c	4c (+3)
Year 6	-	-	4c	5c (+3)
Year 6	-	-	5a	5b (-1)



Year 6	-	-	4c	5c (+3)
Year 6	-	-	4c	4b (+1)
Year 6	-	-	5c	5c (-)
Year 6	-	-	5b	5a (+1)
Year 6	-	-	3c	3c (-)
Year 6	-	-	5b	5a (+1)
Year 6	-	-	5c	5a (+2)
Year 6	-	-	5c	5b (+1)
Year 6	-	-	5b	5b (-)
Year 6	-	-	5c	5b (+1)
Year 6	-	-	5c	5b (+1)

**St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School**

Year	Name	Predicted Results		Actual Results	
		Literacy	Numeracy	Literacy	Numeracy
Year 6	-	5	4a	5b (-)	5c (+1)
Year 6	-	4a	4a	5c (+1)	5c (+1)
Year 6	-	4b	4a	4c (-1)	5c (+1)
Year 6	-	4a	4a	5c (+1)	5c (+1)
Year 6	-	5	5	5c (-)	5a (-)
Year 6	-	4a	4a	4b (-1)	4b (-1)
Year 6	-	4a	4b	5b (+2)	
Year 6	-	4c	4c	3b (-2)	4c (-)
Year 6	-	5	4a	4a (-1)	5b (+2)
Year 6	-	4b	4b	4a (+1)	4b (-)
Year 6	-	4a	4a	5c (+1)	5c (+1)
Year 6	-	5	5	5c (-)	5c (-)
Year 6	-	5	5	5b (-)	5c (-)
Year 6	-	4a	5	4b (-1)	5a (-)
Year 6	-	4c	3a	4c (-)	3b (-1)
Year 6	-	5	4b	5a (-)	4a (+1)
Year 6	-	4a	4b	5c (+1)	5c (+2)
Year 6	-	4b	4b	3a (-2)	4b (-)
Year 6	-	5	5	5c (-)	5b (-)
Year 6	-	3	3a	3c (-)	3b (-1)
Year 6	-	5	5	4b (-2)	4a (-1)
Year 6	-	4b	4c	4c (-1)	5c (+3)
Year 6	-	4b	5	5c (+2)	5c (-)
Year 6	-	5	5	5b (-)	5c (-)
Year 6	-	4a	4a	4a (-)	
Year 6	-	4a	5	4c (-2)	5b (-)
Year 6	-	4b	4a	4b (-)	4a (-)
Year 6	-	4a	4b	5c (+1)	4b (-)

## Appendix C: Schools' Written Feedback

**Paul Fearn, Claines CE Primary School** – feedback given to James Green, Teacher/Advisor for E-Learning

Educationcity was very useful and is still proving to be a good resource. The children were able to take responsibility for their own learning and revision at home. The myCity section meant I could also personalise the learning needed that week on topics that I also felt the children needed extra work on – and see the assessment of that learning at home.

In school, we could have some children practise skills on computers and assessing their own ability in the different areas as well as other children who are developing the Numeracy through other activities. Educationcity also proved to be a more fun work to do homework rather than having activity sets or worksheets for homework (games, sounds and visual learning).

Internet connections at home and children without the internet made some difficulties for different children.

Educationcity assessment was easier to read and understand in the long run. However to begin with there was a lot of information available (all good though!) and it was just finding the specific info you required that proved difficult.

Next year, I am hoping to continue using Edcity as homework and developing the use of it as an independent learning tool. This will engage all the children and hopefully develop/maintain the high SAT results we obtained this year.

**Mike Painter** – feedback given directly to EducationCity.com

We have been using EducationCity.com from Reception to Year 6 for the last 2 years, and subscribe to Literacy, Maths, Science and French.

We integrate EducationCity.com within our lesson planning and use it on a daily basis. We use it on the whiteboard for group work, on an individual basis on computers, and also for homework, and find it very easy to use.

We are strong users of SuccessTracker, the e-assessment tool, as this gives us instant access to scores and allows us to monitor progress made. When progress is good, we know the information has been retained and we can move on. When progress is poor, we know we need to do more to reinforce the learning.

It puts us in control and allows us to set up myCity areas for the class to ensure they are working on appropriate activities for their needs.

During the Spring Term, we were approached by James Green from Worcestershire LA to participate in the county-wide pilot scheme to assess the impact EducationCity.com was having for Science and in July, when our SATs results were published we compared this assessment to what they actually achieved.

Top level results are as below:

**60% of the 30 KS 2 Science pupils achieved higher than we predicted**  
**30% achieved exactly as predicted**

Our Maths and Literacy results also improved, but these were not benchmarked and monitored in the same way as Science.

We also find EducationCity.com very popular with the children, who really like the animation aspect of the resource. To them, it is like a game, and something to be enjoyed. They also feel a great sense of achievement when they see their percentage score and print off a certificate, and this motivates them to do their best.

Although already a subscriber and so very aware of the benefits of EducationCity.com, we are very pleased with the positive impact we have seen from the pilot and will certainly be renewing the Numeracy, Literacy and Science modules.

In summary, EducationCity.com represents a fun way to learn for the children, which combines gameplay with academic content. For the staff, it is an invaluable tool, which helps raise attainment levels, which enables them to monitor progress and set the pupils work appropriate to their level of attainment.

The staff like it because:

- EducationCity.com gives teachers reliable teaching and homework resources for the core curriculum subjects.
- It is a useful revision aid for end of year and key stage SATs
- It gives the teacher control of the activities that each teaching group works on and the instant feedback aids Assessment for Learning

The children like it because:

- The characters on EducationCity.com are fun
- The games are fun and easy to do
- It makes me laugh when the old lady gets electrocuted!

**Pauline Turner, St Joseph's** – feedback given to James Green, Teacher/Advisor for E-Learning

Found Education City very easy to use and set up. It is used throughout the school, not just for Class 6 and everyone is confident with its use. Really good for reinforcement of different strategies etc. in Numeracy and Literacy, but sometimes not always appropriate as a teaching tool. Excellent that children can work at their own level on appropriate programmes and many parents have been pleased about the children using it at home. Many TAs have set up individual programmes for the special needs children.

Reports are a bit hit and miss. They are accurate if children have logged on properly but sometimes children have accidentally logged on as someone else. Also found that the results are not always recorded, but that possibly means better training of the children.

Next year, we are definitely continuing with Education City. It is a well used resource and many teachers have already included it in their planning. We will hold a workshop to enable all teachers to use the SuccessTracker facility to help with assessment.