

Improving Writing Outcomes for P5/6 Learners

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Stretch Aim: By 12th December 2023, 100% of P5 and 80% of P6 pupils will have achieved CfE First Level Writing Outcomes (P5 Baseline 60% and P6 40%).

Teaching Aim 1: By 29th September 88% of P5/6 pupils will correctly punctuate* most (75-90%) sentences accurately within pieces of independent writing (baseline 60%).

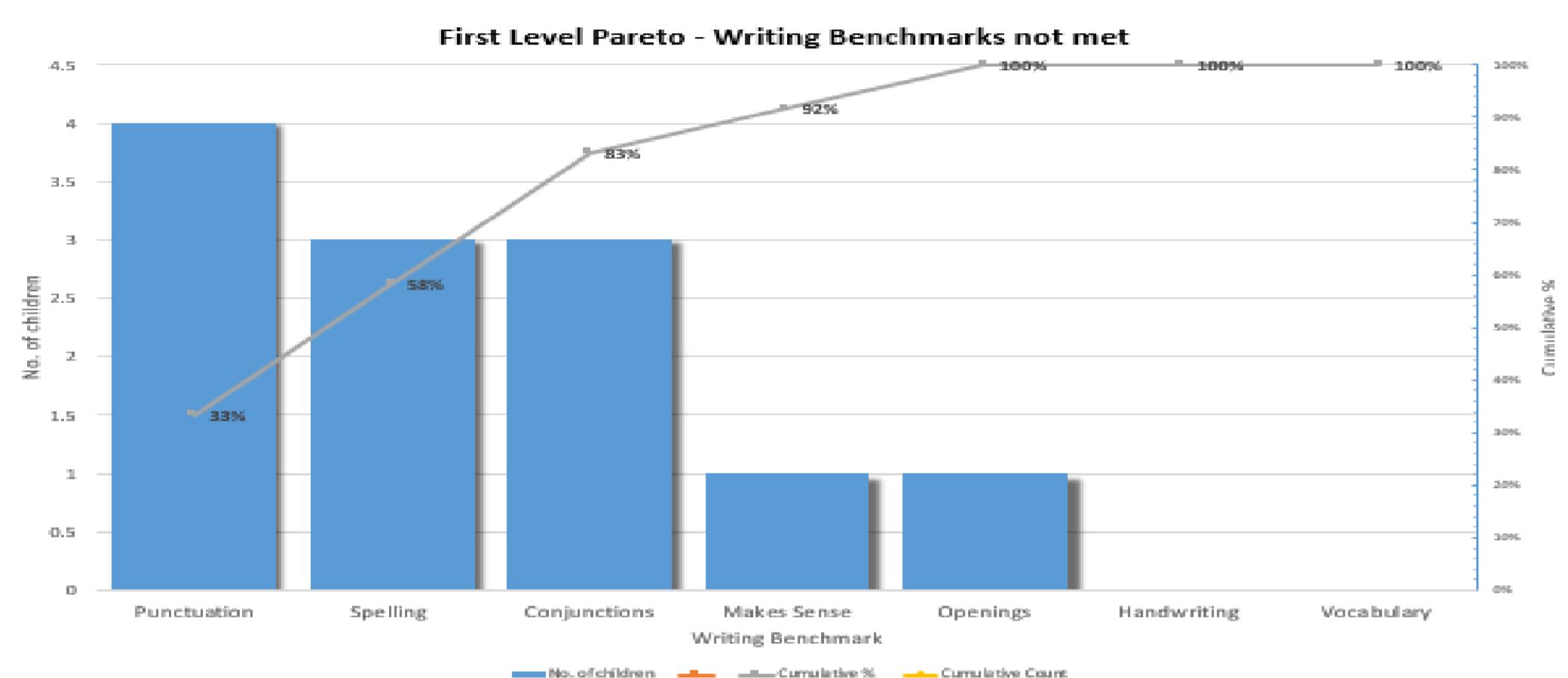
* using capital letters, full stops, exclamation and question marks; SIE to include commas.

Teaching Aim 2: By 30th November 88% of P5/6 learners will be able to link most sentences (75% - 90%) using an appropriate connective (and, but, because, so) within pieces of independent writing. (Baseline 60%)

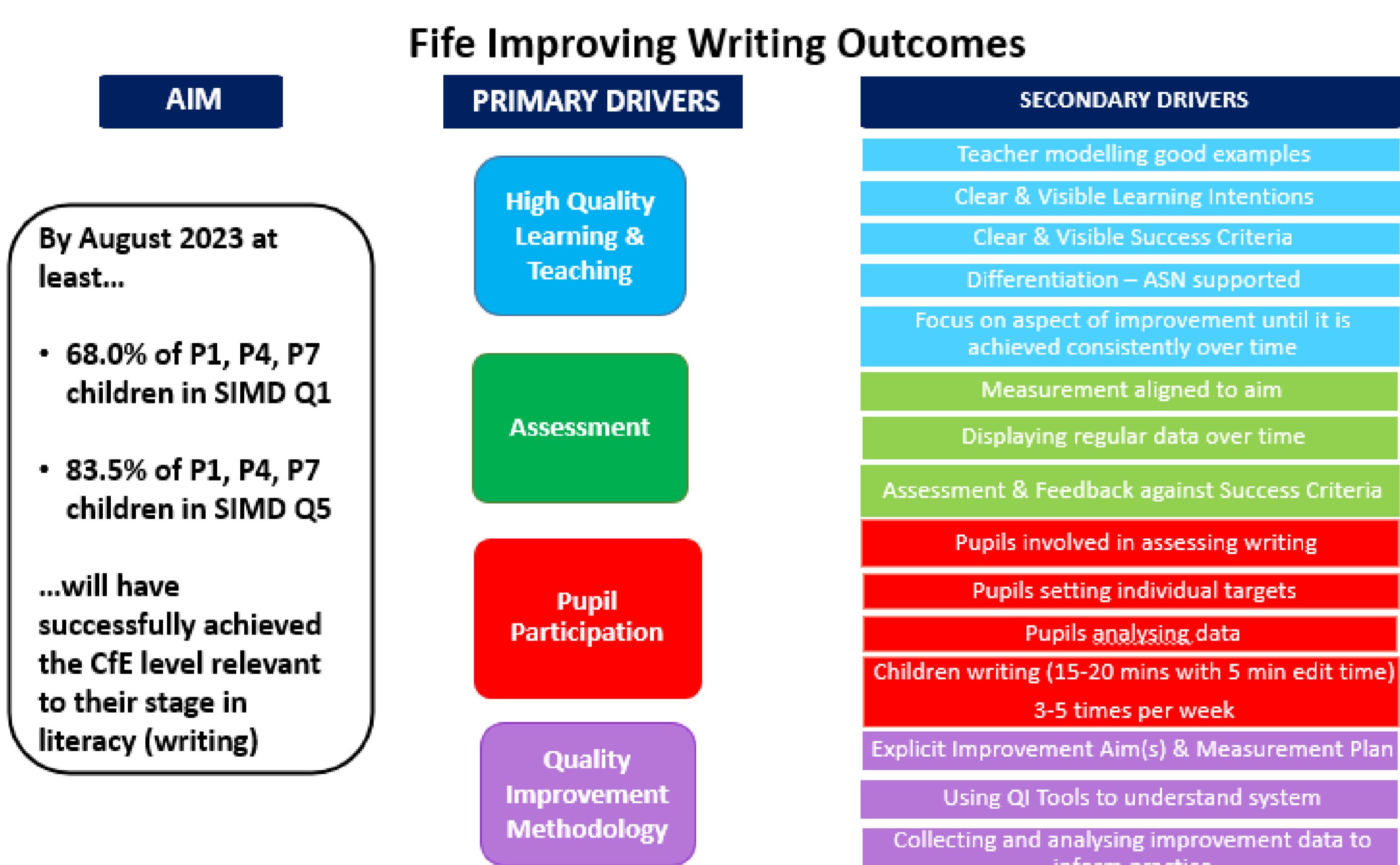
Teaching Aim 3: By 13th February 2024 88% P5/6 pupils will be achieving at least 4 varied openers in their writing (Baseline: 60%)

Method

- Established an Improvement Team.
- Attended Fife QI Improving Writing Programme (Wave 9).
- Carried out a baseline assessment against CfE benchmarks.
- The baseline assessment was used to create a pareto chart.
- The biggest challenge for the majority of the children was applying punctuation marks correctly and consistently in unsupported writing.
- The pareto chart informed our first teaching aim for the QI model.



Process Change



Implement

- Children writing 3-5 times per week.
- Shared planning for 5 mins, write for 15 mins, 5 mins to self-check.
- Teacher input aligned to aim (stimulus, dialogue, model)
- Share Learning Intention and make Success Criteria explicit.
- VCOP mats, word books and dictionaries available at tables during writing.
- Assess and feedback against Success Criteria.
- Involved children in the process by self and peer assessing.

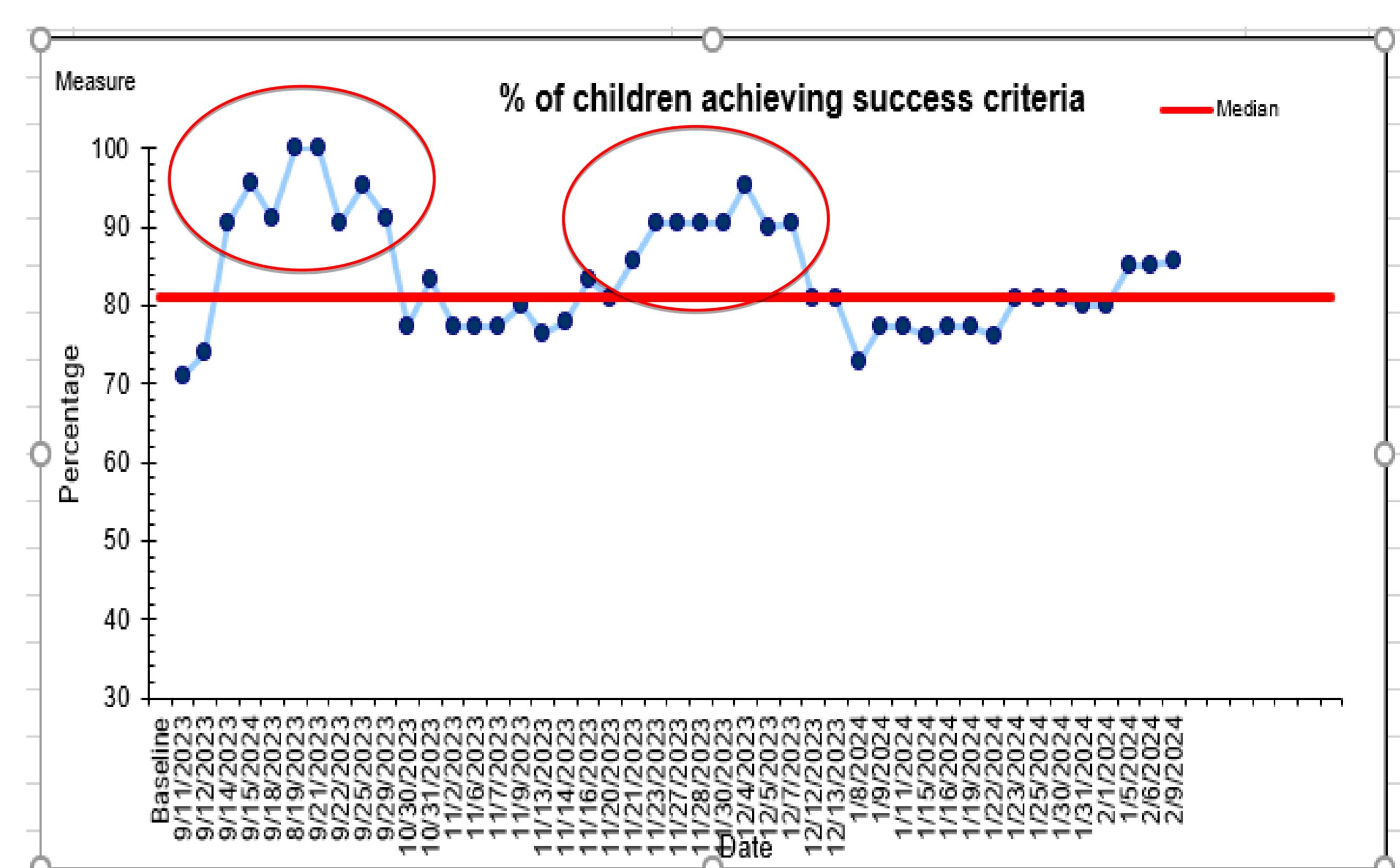
Achievements

By 12th December 2023 100% of P5 and 80% of P6 children achieved CfE First Level writing stretch aim (baseline 60%).

By 29th September over 90% of P5/6 children achieved Aim 1 (baseline 60%).

By 30th November over 90% of P5/6 learners achieved Aim 2, although this figure dipped as we approached the Christmas holidays.

Results



Conclusions

Making the LI and SC short, sharp and consistent until our aim was achieved, was a key factor to success.

"I really like getting feedback so I know what to work on and improve."
"I am proud of my writing and I'm getting so much better now."

Key Learning Points

- A consistent approach is essential for success.
- Pupil involvement is important from the very beginning so they are invested in what they are learning, why it is important and how it will help them.
- Clear, consistent LI and SC is key.
- A variety of stimuli, including real life contexts, is important to engage learners and keep them motivated.
- Sharing their progress and giving meaningful, precise feedback can bring about quick successes and gains.
- Timings can have an impact, for example, Friday fatigue and end of term!
- Everyone can achieve with differentiated supports.

Next steps

- Regularly review previous aims and add new ones.
- Continue with 'look back to help us move forward' approach to feedback.
- Build and develop peer support and assessment with specific editing buddies.
- Work closely with pupils to create a bank of useful stimuli and genres to maintain motivation and engagement.

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