



**Name Mark Houlgate**  
**Title Cantrell Primary School**

- Assistant Head teacher
- Assessment co-ordinator
- Nottingham LA writing moderator
- KS2 phase leader
- Year 6 teacher



*Accurate, robust and meaningful assessment of our children's learning is essential so that we, as teachers, know exactly what our pupils need to learn next. Only when you know that the data entered by schools is reliable can you learn from it and see how and where schools need to improve their provision, or which schools are in a position to help each other and ultimately provide a better standard of education for our children.*

- Mark Houlgate has over 10 years' experience in Nottingham City, teaching across KS2 during his career. Working as an English teacher in Year 6, he has overseen a dramatic improvement in KS2 outcomes for pupils in English over the last four years.
- Since the abolition of NC levels, he has overseen the implementation of a new whole-school assessment policy in his school, including the reformatting of the data collection process and pupil progress meetings to be child-centred, workload-friendly and purposeful. No data is collected which is not used, and teachers are not ticking boxes for the sake of it. We are *not*, as Joe Kirby would phrase it, "drowning in data, but thirsting for insight."
- As the KS2 lead writing moderator for the LA, Mark delivered STA training to all Nottingham City moderators this year. He has also delivered writing moderation meetings and workshops for Transform Year 6 Networks and the Bulwell family of schools, as well as supporting a large number of individual schools across the city in their KS2 writing judgements. This has included moderating the accuracy of teachers' judgements, explaining and clarifying the statements in the interim assessment framework and helping teachers consider writing tasks which best suit exemplification of certain statements.
- He can provide tailored support for teachers and school leaders in planning, teaching and assessing writing in upper KS2, as well as helping school leaders to consider the effectiveness of their assessment system so that it has the maximum positive impact on pupil learning and staff morale.

I am passionate about improving the lives and life chances of young people in our city. Assessment is the bridge between teaching and learning – we need to know whether pupils have learned what we have taught in order to know what to teach next and so have the most meaningful impact on our children.

