

# Achieving Excellence in the Quality of Education

Academic Year 2019/2020

Programme led by:

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# Achieving Excellence in the Quality of Education 2019/2020

Partners for Excellence is committed to achieving the highest possible standards of education for all children. Our aim is to support and challenge our partner schools to ‘improve on their previous best’

This year-long programme has been designed to support schools in getting to grips with the revised Ofsted Inspection Framework coming into effect from September 2019. The programme will make a significant contribution to enabling schools to achieve excellence in the overall quality of education being provided. The content will support schools in their journey towards achieving Outstanding in an Ofsted inspection. There will be a focus on the extent to which the inspection criteria for Good and Outstanding are being met, and the robustness of evidence the school has in place to demonstrate this. In particular there will a focus on schools developing an understanding of what is meant by “quality of education” and the key components of the curriculum, pupils personal development, behaviour and attitudes.

Clearly, where there are areas of practice or provision which are not yet good or outstanding, schools on the programme will wish to address these, drawing in support from their peers as well as others. There are opportunities within the initiative for collaborative work and sharing best practice.

The programme is being led by School Improvement Specialists with current Ofsted experience and serving headteachers from Good and Outstanding schools, who have a range of skills and strong track record in supporting schools to achieve excellence. Schools may additionally commission bespoke support from Partners for Excellence to address specific needs identified through participation in the programme.

## Target group

Schools that:

- are committed to achieving excellence in the quality of education they provide pupils
- are due an Ofsted inspection in the academic year 2019/2020
- are not due an Ofsted imminently but want to get to know and understand the new inspection framework so that they are fully prepared.

The expectation is that both the headteacher and deputy head will attend the sessions. For certain sessions, they may wish to be accompanied by other colleagues such as subject leaders or chair of governors.

## Format

The programme will consist of six full-day sessions spread over three terms. There will be contributions from *Partners for Excellence* consultants as well as a range of headteachers and other educational leaders across a variety of local authorities. Sessions will vary in format according to their content but will be interactive. Between sessions schools will be expected to carry out some research to prepare for the forthcoming focus.

## Costs

**£2400 for the whole programme, with provision for four places at each of the sessions.**  
Additional bespoke support will be charged separately.

## SESSION 1:

### What do we mean by quality of education?

9.00-3.30 (including lunch and time for networking)

Thursday 17th October 2019  
Venue: Grim's Dyke Hotel, Harrow

Objectives:

- To enable an in-depth understanding of the school's curriculum:
  - The extent to which it sets out the knowledge and skills that pupils will gain at each stage (its **intent**)
  - how well it is taught and assessed in order to support pupils to build their knowledge and to apply their skills (its **implementation**)
  - the key outcomes that pupils achieve as a result of the education they have received (its **impact**).
- To explore the most effective strategies for:
  - teaching early reading so that all pupils reach at least age-related expectations by the beginning of key stage 2, whatever their starting points
  - developing the roles of subject leaders to manage the increased responsibility and accountability of curriculum leadership
  - the extent to which the school is equipping pupils with the cultural capital they need to succeed in life.

## SESSION 2:

### How strong is your curriculum?

9.00-3.30 (including lunch and time for networking)

Thursday 28th November 2019  
Venue: Grim's Dyke Hotel, Harrow

Objectives:

- To consider different approaches to curriculum design and how schools are mastering **intent**.
- To look in depth at how schools are approaching the curriculum in foundation subjects, with a particular emphasis on science, history, geography and religious education.
- To consider how teachers are selecting what is **most useful** to teach to ensure that pupils gain the knowledge and skills they need to reach the school's stated **end points**.
- To focus on **learning in depth** and the implications for teachers' subject knowledge, including how such learning will be presented and remembered by pupils.

## SESSION 3:

### **What evidence do I need to demonstrate the effectiveness of the school's quality of education?**

9.00-3.30 (including lunch and time for networking)

Thursday 6th February 2020  
Venue: Grim's Dyke Hotel, Harrow

Objectives:

- To consider the school's use of assessment to support the implementation of the curriculum without placing undue demands on teacher workload, considering both core subjects and foundation subjects.
- To equip subject leaders and class teachers with the skills they need to:
  - explain the rationale for the choices they have made in designing and implementing the curriculum
  - articulate their view of how pupils are progressing through the curriculum
  - use the work in books as evidence of the progress pupils are making over time, including holding discussions with pupils about their work and what they recall.
- To ensure that the school's curriculum is broad and balanced and suitably enriched and that every pupil has full access to it, including disadvantaged pupils and those with SEN.
- To consider the extent to which the school's curriculum prepares pupils for the next stage of their education and to become good citizens.

## SESSION 4:

### **How am I creating a positive environment and what is its impact on the behaviour and attitudes of pupils?**

9.00-3.30 (including lunch and time for networking)

Thursday 26th March 2020  
Venue: Grim's Dyke Hotel, Harrow

Objectives:

- To consider how the school creates a safe, calm, orderly and positive environment to have the best impact on pupils' behaviour and attitudes.
- To consider the school's approaches to attendance and punctuality, including for specific groups such as disadvantaged pupils and those with SEN.
- To explore what the school is doing to motivate pupils, develop positive work habits and a love of learning that will serve them well in the next stage of their education.

- To consider what the school is doing to meet the particular needs of vulnerable pupils and those with behavioural issues.
- To examine how the school is recording and analysing attendance and behaviour incidents and how swiftly leaders respond to trends and/or parental concerns.

## SESSION 5:

### **What am I doing to provide for pupils' personal development?**

9.00-3.30 (including lunch and time for networking)

Thursday 21st May 2020

Venue: Grim's Dyke Hotel, Harrow

Objectives:

- To consider how the school is preparing pupils to become responsible, respectful, active citizens who are able to play their part in public life as adults.
- To explore how the school is developing and deepening pupils' understanding of the fundamental British values of democracy, individual liberty, the rule of law and mutual respect and tolerance.
- To review the school's approach to promoting equality of opportunity so that pupils can thrive together, understanding that difference is a positive, not a negative, and that individual characteristics make people unique.
- To consider the school's approach to the mental health and well-being of pupils, developing their confidence, resilience and self-knowledge.
- To focus on how pupils keep healthy and maintain an active lifestyle both during the school day and in extra-curricular activities.
- To explore how the school enables pupils to develop an age-appropriate understanding of healthy relationships through relationship and sex education.
- To consider ways the school promotes pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.

## SESSION 6:

### How well led and managed is the school?

9.00-3.30 (including lunch and time for networking)

Thursday 25th June 2020  
Venue: Grim's Dyke Hotel, Harrow

Objectives:

- To consider how effectively the school creates a culture of safeguarding which identifies pupils at risk, helps them to reduce their risk of harm and manages safe recruitment.
- To explore what messages the school's website is giving to the wider world.
- To look at how ambitious the school's vision is for providing a high quality, inclusive education to all pupils, whatever their backgrounds and circumstances.
- To explore how leaders use professional development to build up teaching staff's subject knowledge in order to enhance the teaching of the curriculum.
- To consider how effectively the school engages with parents, other stakeholders and their community.
- To think about how leaders engage with staff and manage workload and staff well-being.
- To consider the role of governors in holding leaders to account for the quality of education.



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