

Ashfield Excellence Cluster

Curriculum Network Meeting ~ 1st March 2007

	ACTION
<p><u>Present:</u></p> <p>Colin Howard, Teacher, Holly Primary Mark Eadon, Headteacher, Holly Hill Primary Suzanne Stoddart, Teacher, Beardall Street Russell Haslam, Teacher, Edgewood Primary Carolyn McGeagh, DHT, Hillside Primary Sarah Plaskitt, Teacher, Broomhill Junior Karen Whitehouse, Teacher, Morven Park Primary Steve Stafford, DHT, Daneswood Junior Dawn Roberts, DHT, Annesley Primary Di Munro, Acting DHT, Coxmoor Primary Hilary Craik, SIA, Notts Annie McClimont, AEC</p>	
<p><u>Apologies:</u></p> <p>Annie Holgate Infants</p>	
<p><u>Welcome and Introductions</u></p>	
<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Primary schools in the Cluster have identified the curriculum as an area for development. Links with QCA have been established with presentation from Brian Male, to Heads on 11.10.06 and to all teachers in schools (not Daneswood, Morven Park or Holly Primary) on 26.2.07. It is envisaged that this network group will be a 'co-development group' with QCA.</p>	
<p><u>School Contexts / Current Practice</u></p> <p><u>Beardall Street:</u> Have been revising their curriculum using Somerset model (especially skills ladders). Are now looking at taking out the QCA units altogether.</p> <p><u>Edgewood:</u> Are using Somerset model and the skills ladders, and are now pulling together the generic skills in an attempt to streamline it. KS2 has a 4 year rolling programme and KS1 a 2 year rolling programme. They feel they have just turned KSA (knowledge, skills and attitudes) into ASK but that nothing has really changed. Are now going back to the National Curriculum for skills and are looking to introduce pupil voice.</p> <p><u>Hillside:</u> Has a very particular context because of the amalgamation. Did have some joint curriculum events/weeks prior to the amalgamation. They have a 2 year cycle and have introduced a themed approach although it is still QCA unit driven. They have used some things from Somerset. The message is getting through to staff. Focus weeks have sowed the seeds.</p> <p><u>Broomhill:</u> Have had themed days/weeks. Main development is Golden Time which comprises 2 afternoons per week with children in vertically grouped classes (Y3 – 6) to do special 'topics'. Children are asked for themes/topics and these are cross-referenced to skills. The vertical grouping has had unforeseen benefits – in spite of obvious challenges. Looking now to develop further and are using the QCA 'tree' to identify as a school the 'roots'.</p> <p><u>Morven Park:</u> Have used Creative Partnerships to boost their work. Have been developing cross-curricular work especially around Science. They want to move away from QCA units.</p> <p><u>Holly Primary:</u> Have a topic based approach but feel this is not working well, raising some questions about teacher confidence.</p> <p><u>Coxmoor:</u> Have had themed weeks but rely on QCA units. Are now considering ways forward eg work in a year group / Golden Time similar to Broomhill.</p> <p><u>Daneswood:</u> Have had themed days. Planning is tied to QCA units. They did some work on the curriculum but this was a reorganisation/ slimming down of QCA units. Now looking to do something more radical.</p> <p><u>Annesley:</u> Are a Creative Partnerships 'hub' school and this has provided opportunities to experiment with different ways in eg through photography and visits. SLT feel that at the INSET on 26/2, the 'penny dropped'. They are now looking to develop a themed approach possibly with a 2 year rolling programme across Y1/2, Y3/4 and Y5/6.</p>	
<p>Also discussed:</p> <p>Somerset Curriculum (cross curricular, cross references to QCA units, skills ladders) Bexley 'Creative Learning Journey (takes FS areas of learning through to end of KS2) International Primary Curriculum – decided it was too expensive! Gloucester City Curriculum</p>	

<p><u>Possible Partnership Work</u> Sharing resources eg planning pro-formas, units of work Working together on curriculum units Visit to each other's schools (eg Coxmoor to Broomhill to see Golden Time) Sharing experiences – good and bad!</p> <p><u>Cluster Support</u> Finance / Resources Visits to other school/authorities Visitors from other authorities Consultant support Action Planning Evaluation</p> <p><u>Planning</u> Pro-formas and guidelines for action planning in schools were distributed. Lead teachers asked to discuss them with SLTs and begin planning.</p> <p><u>Actions Agreed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To distribute contact details. • To distribute copies of Brian Male's slides. • To distribute information about the Somerset model to schools. • To investigate possible visits to Ryton Park, Grange Primary and Stevenson Junior. • To investigate Gloucester City Curriculum • To contact Bexley with a view to getting more information about their 'Creative Learning Journey'. • To begin planning actions in schools ready for next meeting. <p>NEXT MEETING: Thursday 26th April 2007 (The Scout Hut, Linby)</p>	<p>A McC A McC A McC A McC A McC HK ALL</p>
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