

Case Study – Every Child Matters Standards Award

Name of organisation: Calderstones School – A Specialist Science College

Type: PFI School

Local Authority: Liverpool

Date ECM Standards Award achieved: 11th October 2010

Relevant contextual information about the educational setting and ECM:

Calderstones School is a large truly comprehensive school in one of the most deprived cities in the country. It is located in the 'leafy suburbs' but our pupils travel from all areas of the city. The school deprivation indicator puts us at 76th percentile nationally. FSM 17.9% - 68th percentile. Minority Ethnic Groups 33.4% - 80th percentile. The % of girls has declined (Liverpool has 2000 more places for girls than boys in single sex schools) to 35.8% - 16th percentile. Attainment on entry is slightly below the national average although 'selection' within Liverpool means we have fewer of the brightest children. Ofsted Nov 2007 stated:

"Given the large and diverse site particular attention is given to ensuring that the school is a safe place for students to work."

"The school promotes exceptional harmony between its students"

"Students feel very secure and valued"

The reasons why the ECM Standards were chosen:

To identify strengths and areas for development within our current practices. A useful opportunity for staff CPD.

How the implementation of the ECM Standards was organised:

The initiative was introduced at a Pastoral Staff Meeting. We then identified a team of 20 staff to make up our working party. Two or three staff were assigned an ECM standard and they then carried out the initial audit. Areas for improvement were identified and this information was shared with the working party for their consideration. An action plan was formulated and work began on gathering evidence and making improvements. We met as a group every half term to review our progress. As soon as we considered that all of the evidence was in place we invited the ECM Consultant back into school. During this meeting she offered advice with regards to our portfolio's of evidence and we set a date for the final assessment day. The final assessment day was challenging but very rewarding.

What worked well in engaging with the ECM Standards process:

Staff working in unison towards a common goal.

Examples of innovative ECM practice worth disseminating:

Pupils, parents and staff have access to our virtual learning platform (FROG). As well as secure access to pupil records via EPORTAL.

Impact on children/young people:

Pupils feel that they are given a wealth of opportunity, that they are respected and that they have a good relationship with our staff. There is always someone in school with whom they can talk . Pupils are happy at Calderstones School and feel that 'they have a choice'.

Impact on staff and other stakeholders:

Working towards this award gave us the opportunity to commend the good practice and the hard work of our pastoral team. Staff felt that their involvement gave them an awareness of the 'whole school' and 'the wellbeing of all pupils'. It was an excellent CPD opportunity for those staff involved.

Ongoing ECM developments resulting from engaging with the ECM Standards:

Peer mentoring
Parent Workshops
Regular pupil/parent/staff questionnaires