

Case Study – Every Child Matters Standards Award

Name of organisation: Harefield Infant, Nursery and Children's Centre

Relevant contextual information about the educational setting and ECM:

Harefield Infant, Nursery and Children's Centre is a medium sized school in the London Borough of Hillingdon. Although we are in a London Borough we are at the centre of village and the school is surrounded by green fields and some farms. We have families from all walks of life who have varying needs. Our children with SEN is slightly higher than the National Average.

The reasons why the ECM Standards were chosen:

As a new Head teacher the ECM standard was a way of uniting the staff towards a common goal. I had been in post for 6 weeks when Ofsted called and the school was given a satisfactory judgement. Staff felt demoralised by this, and ECM has been a way for us to demonstrate how we have improved. There is a lot of good practise going on, we just needed to evidence this.

How the implementation of the ECM Standards was organised:

As Head teacher I took the lead, organising the file and standards. I then audited where we were in terms of our ECM agenda. I matched the standards to the SEF, Ofsted Action Plan, and School Development Plan. Once this was done we had a SEF/ECM day, where staff started gathering evidence to build up the portfolio. During this time we talked a lot about our work and the impact it was having for the children.

After this I collated the evidence for the file, identified the gaps and met with the leadership team to identify if we were doing whatever the gap identified and where would we find the evidence. Fortunately we were doing the gaps and it was about finding the evidence. This was distributed to staff teams via the Leadership Team. We time limited the gathering process and I collected in the evidence and completed the portfolio with a written explanation for each piece of evidence.

What worked well in engaging with the ECM Standards process:

Leadership of the process is important; however this has to be balanced with purposeful participation.

Matching the Standards with the SEF, Ofsted action plan and SDP enabled the process to serve many purposes and was in a language all staff, parent/carers and governors understood.

Working in staff teams was inspiring, as we learned so much about how important all our roles in school are.

Examples of innovative ECM practice worth disseminating:

Our creative curriculum inspires our children and they really do see learning and school as fun. There is a real 'WOW' factor to our curriculum and teaching.

Our care plans are very effective and have enabled children to come to school with complex medical needs that are met.

Impact on children/young people:

We are especially proud of the way our children think and problem solve. They are happy and confident and this is as a result of our teaching and curriculum. We are interested in the whole child, and our social skills groups and art therapy enable all children to develop.

Impact on staff and other stakeholders:

A great deal of pride in their work and how this improves outcomes for all our children.

A realisation of how important it is to continue to develop the whole child and the whole family.

A greater understanding of the work we all do, and we are all vital in improving outcomes for the children.

Ongoing ECM developments resulting from engaging with the ECM Standards:

We are looking at growing and selling our own vegetables on a seasonal basis. This will enable children to develop their understanding of economic well-being.

Link the ECM with the SDP and the SEF.