

Case Study – Every Child Matters Standards Award

Name of organisation: Hawthorns Community School
Type: Primary Special
Local Authority: Tameside
Date ECM Standards Award achieved: June 2009

Relevant contextual information about the educational setting and ECM:

Hawthorns Community School is a small primary special community school catering for approximately 50+ pupils who have complex learning and medical needs. We are a successful school having previously had Beacon Status and been judged Outstanding at last 2 Ofsted Inspections. We have close links with parents and all multi agencies. Children achieve very well at our school which is a brand new Eco build co located with a Mainstream Primary School.

The reasons why the ECM Standards were chosen:

We have always been very driven by the 5 areas of ECM and had worked hard to achieve the Healthy Schools award, this piece of work enabled us to incorporate all our work and help us to self audit in detail.

How the implementation of the ECM Standards was organised:

This became a Key Priority within our SDP, with clear time allocations and meetings set aside.

We held a whole School Training Day to launch the work.

All staff, Governors and Parents contributed to the Audit Process, this gave us a clear action plan to implement during the School Year.

An ECM Team was formed and they lead the School, completing the audits. SLT collated and analysed the findings implementing actions within the SDP.

A Timetable for the Assessment Day was drawn up.

During the year, there were regular meetings with staff and then ECM Team would meet with Head Teacher.

There was a regular report to Governors.

What worked well in engaging with the ECM Standards process:

The Self Review process was extremely thorough, allowing us to reflect on our current practice and range of activities. It gave the ECM a high priority and kept the standard as a priority. It was reflected well in our planning and featured in all our communication and newsletters to Parents.

Examples of innovative ECM practice worth disseminating:

Each pupil has an ECM folder containing a wealth of photographic evidence.
ECM is a focus in our school and each team considered in their team meetings.

Impact on children/young people:

Whole School Community were/ are aware of ECM areas.
It has broadened our view of possibilities leading to even richer experiences for our children.
We can say with confidence that we have happy and successful pupils.
(Our School ethos puts Happiness and Success at the heart)

Impact on staff and other stakeholders:

Clarity about all the different activities we engage in.
Heightened awareness of the ECM agenda.
Recognition and celebration of successful completion of the award.

Ongoing ECM developments resulting from engaging with the ECM Standards:

Friends of Hawthorns Group established, becoming increasingly proactive.
Lots of learning opportunities for families- Cookery Clubs, Signing etc.
Continuation of ECM folders for each child.
Liaison with large primary school in a different LA re our ECM processes.
Continuation of ECM action plans.