

Case Study – Every Child Matters Standards Award

Name of Organisation: Stephen Hawking

Type: Special

Local Authority: Tower Hamlets

Date ECM Standards Award achieved: July 2010

Relevant contextual information about the educational setting and ECM:

Stephen Hawking is a primary school (2-11 years) for pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties. Many of the children have additional physical and/or sensory impairments, and many have complex medical needs.

The school is dedicated to the development and maintenance of high quality relationships with families and local community organisations to ensure that the children attending the school become respected and active members of the local community.

The school believes in a high level of team work both in school, with parents, other schools and agencies to ensure that the enthusiasm for learning is a priority for all the children and all the adults working with them.

The reasons why the ECM Standards were chosen:

The ECM standards were chosen to highlight the fundamental beliefs of those working at Stephen Hawking School. There was recognition of the staff's work in providing a broad and balanced curriculum adapted to meet our pupils' needs and it highlighted their achievements and focussed on developing the independence of children with PMLD.

The ECM standards also gave the school a tool to monitor themselves against .In particular the national standards which had been set for every school.

How the implementation of the ECM Standards was organised:

The Deputy Head led and managed the ECM Standards with ongoing support from the various teams on site: Education, Premises, admin and therapists based on site. This was very much a whole school approach.

What worked well in engaging with the ECM Standards process:

One of the easiest Standards to achieve was Enjoy and Achieve as we all love to celebrate and encourage the celebration of both staff and pupil achievements. The hardest to produce evidence for was economic well-being due to our pupils' disabilities; however, it challenged us as a staff team and developed our understanding of this standard.

Examples of innovative ECM practice worth disseminating:

The development of our Sensory Integration activities, the school's ongoing curriculum development and the support for parents, for example encouraging them to allow their children to take risks whilst gaining their independence during PE sessions and moving around the school site.

Impact on children/young people:

We have continued with our approach to Healthy Eating and further developed the independence of the pupils when they are in the dining room or walking around the school site.

Impact on staff and other stakeholders:

The ECM award has made our Governors/Trustees and volunteers more aware of the pupils' achievements and highlighted more publicly the visions and values of the Staff working at Stephen Hawking School

Ongoing ECM developments resulting from engaging with the ECM Standards:

As a school we have used the Standards for wider assessment and to show progress for the pupils whilst developing links with the wider community.