

Basic Skills Quality Mark Programme - Visit Feedback Report

School name	Ravensmead Primary School, Bignall End, Stoke on Trent		
Headteacher	David Bell		
School and/or HT email	headteacher@ravensmead.staffs.sch.uk	Tel no	01782 296635
Alliance QM Assessor	Chris Wood	Visit date	20/05/2014

Purpose of Visit	Renewal Assessment
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The Assessor spoke with the following people

Headteacher and/or Senior Leaders YES	Literacy Subject Leader YES	Numeracy Subject Leader YES	Assessment Manager YES
SENCo YES	Pupil representatives YES	Governor representative(s) YES	Parent representative(s) YES

'Learning Walk' completed? YES	Relevant evidence-base reviewed? YES
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The previous development points have been considered have been implemented

- Suggested areas for development in preparation for the next Quality Mark visit:**
- To work with the local Authority and cluster schools to develop a workable and relevant approach to the New Curriculum in both literacy and numeracy. To then implement the new approach by supporting all staff, both teaching and non teaching in developing the skills to deliver the New Curriculum.
 - To embed the revised maths calculation policy and continue to support the recently introduced Dyslexia friendly handwriting scheme.

- To maintain the high standards of teaching and learning, with the aspirational aim of moving all teaching from good to outstanding.
- To embed the successfully introduced new marking scheme allowing pupils to reflect on their progress and be confident in the next steps to take to improve their work.

'Good practice' identified in relation to the 10 Elements of the Quality Mark:

- Ravensmead is a good school that places great importance on building strong relations with their parents and the wider local community. On entry children score below national levels but on leaving in Year 6 they achieve at or above national levels.
The school makes very effective use of data using the Sims Assessment Manager to set high but achievable targets and to carefully monitor their progress. Termly assessment by teachers is used to ensure children are on track to achieve their targets. This data is carefully analysed by the senior management team and english and maths co-ordinators which then provides evidence for regular pupil progress meetings. Children who require additional support are quickly identified and intervention programmes put in place to help them make progress.
- The school benefits from having a well trained and highly motivated staff team. Both teachers and support staff are fully involved in ensuring that all children make the best possible progress. Training for all staff is identified through challenging but effective Performance Management. School based objectives along with personally identified goals are supported through in-service training provided by the Local Authority (LA), outside providers, the local cluster group and within the school using the expertise of the existing staff. Changes in the organisation of education locally will mean that in the future the LA will be unable to provide support and that more and more the school will have to rely on its own resources and that of the local cluster of schools. However Ravensmead is fortunate in having a very experienced and highly skilled staff team.
- The school is rightly proud of its links with parents, working hard to raise expectations and broadening horizons for both parents and children. The school has an open door policy along with termly parents meetings to discuss progress and to agree targets as well as providing help and advice to parents enabling them to support their children. Recent sessions have included supporting reading, phonics work and advising parents on the revised maths calculation policy. The school has a very effective school council that has recently advised on the school marking policy as well as suggesting ideas for charities to support and developing the school's environmental approaches.

- The school has a very active approach to supporting the children with special needs with the SENCo actively supporting staff and pupils to overcome difficulties. One recently introduced strategy is the Fischer Family Trust Reading Recovery programme. Links with all outside agencies are strong with the governors providing extra funds to support additional visits by the LA Educational Psychology team to give input and advice for the high numbers of SEN children within the school. The school also works hard to tackle challenging behaviour from children with a very positive nurture group available for these children called Spencer's Club. This is a particularly successful resource allowing these children to have positive time to build up acceptable behaviour strategies.
- The school ensures that standards are accurately assessed by using Assessment for Learning strategies along with the Staffordshire subject grids. Book trawls and moderation exercises are regular features during the school year, not only using the expertise within the school but also among the local cluster of schools and indeed the LA as well. Ravensmead sets and expects high standards exemplified by the school motto 'To be the best we can be'