Lancashire Education Awards

Case Study

Establishment name:	Tarleton Community Primary

Lead contact name	Chris Upton

Lead contact email address	head@tarletoncommunity.lancs.sch.uk

Project title	Developing a Vision for Tomorrow Today

Award gained

Award category	X
Innovate *A project that demonstrates practice that is new or ground breaking, which successfully engaged and enthused learners.*	
Achieve *A project had measurable impact on raising outcomes for pupils.*	
Invest *A project that has had a positive impact upon an aspect of the wider school community.*	X
Collaborate *A project that involved work across more than one school or work with other agencies.*	
Include *A project in provision for pupils with Special Education Needs and Disabilities*	
Inspire *A project that demonstrates embedded exceptional provision of an aspect of the curriculum. Practice will have been developed and refined over time.*	

Project summary (maximum 200 words)

The school was tired and starting to disengage with its community which was impacting on standards, enjoyment and learning as well as intake numbers. In October 2016, the school launched a Vision Day which involved our whole school community: pupils, parents, grandparents, staff, governors and volunteers to consider what the children of Tarleton in the present day needed now to be successful in their future.

The Vision Day involved a series of workshops key groups and this included: a Lego workshop looking at the perfect school; what pupils wanted to be when they left TCP; being High School ready; Logo design and re-branding; radio jingle for TCP; a community survey where pupils visited the local communities to gain their ideas on the school and how we could improve; workshops for adults considering their childhood and aspects that show be taken forward and would be effective for children today and aspects they wouldn't; values and the creation of the TCP ABC (a framework for triangulating the skills needed to be a successful adult in the future). From this day, the school implemented change. Examples are: curriculum development which has engaged learners and impacted positively on outcomes; purposeful enrichment which is mapped out including a trip to France to visit WW1 trenches and a further visit to Normandy and the D Day Beaches planned; curriculum enhancements such as Remembrance Week, Enterprise Week (creating companies for the Christmas Fair and working with local business owners to do so) re-branding in terms of the logo, uniform, website and use of social media; behaviour systems and rewards including new house teams; Celebration Assemblies; new activities led by the Friends of TCP; improved middle leadership where groups are tracked and fed into Study Support opportunities; we have recently opened 3 year old provision called Tiny Treasures @ TCP.

The project has supported the school to improve and raised our profile. Parents are overwhelmingly positive.

How did you identify the need for this project? What were you hoping to achieve?

Senior leaders reviewed data and wanted to improve. Learning walks and a Teaching and Learning Audit supported that whilst there was some good practice it was inconsistent and needed to improve. We wanted our community to be proud of us as we had negative comments made about us locally.

We hoped to achieve improved results in a school that was successful in many different areas so that all pupils achieved regardless of their starting points, believed in themselves and developed confidence and were creative and given the time to be creative. We also wanted the school to be a vibrant, forward thinking place to be so that the children could be successful throughout their lives.

Who led the project?

Chris Upton

What steps/actions did you take?

1. Identified need
2. Organised and implemented Vision Day
3. Produced a record to evidence findings in visual minutes (displayed in school) and produced a report which was shared with governors and made available to the wider community on the school website.
4. Actioned areas to improve:
- worked with graphic designers on new school logo and signage
- set up a School Uniform Working Party with parents, staff, Friends of TCP, Governors, children and created and implemented new school uniform
- Developed curriculum to implement half termly themes; an enrichment calendar; theme weeks embedded as further curriculum enhancements)
- Developed subject leadership across the year to link with governors and held a subject leadership data to collate data and action further improvements
- Developed Study Support and this was recognised by the school gaining the QiSS award
- Reviewed school dinners and changed provider to Mellors
- Embedded the TCP ABC in assemblies
- Reviewed booster groups to now use teacher focus groups to ensure more effective progress occurs
- Targeted Reading improvement by installing a high quality library area using lottery funding and timetabling a weekly Reading Comprehension lesson
- Ensured cross curricular writing opportunities were mapped out and created through theme weeks and an improved curriculum.

What was the impact of the project and how was this measured/assessed?

Outcomes for pupils have improved. At KS2, combined attainment improved by 13% so that the school was in line with national.
Whilst KS2 progress is still an area for improvement, Reading has improved by 0.82 and moved from being below national average to average, Writing has improved by 2.59 and is average whilst Maths has improved by 1.53 and has moved from being well below national averages to being below national averages. At KS1, outcomes have also improved in Writing and Maths, where attainment was in line with national standards it is now above at the expected and higher standard and in Reading where it was below it is now in line.
Outcomes in EYFS remain above national standards.
In 2017-18, admission numbers in Reception have risen by a further 18 pupils than the previous year.
Pupil Attitudinal Questionnaire results reflect: 97% of pupils feel the school is good; 99% understand and care about other people; 100% get help from their teachers; 100% encouraged to do their best; 96% like coming to school; 99% like the way their teacher treats them; 99% of pupils feel that they work hard.
Parent attitudinal results reflect: 99% their child is happy at school; 98% their child makes good progress; 99% would recommend this school to other parents; 99% children are well taught; and 98% the school responds well to concerns raised.

What are the next steps? How will you follow up this work?

Continue to implement and embed strategies.

Do you have any other advice for establishments that might be considering a similar project?

Engage all stakeholders so that the project and school improvement belongs to them too as they have ownership through their buy in and this leads to a positive community.
Find ways to visually represent what you are doing.
Be able to articulate your vision.
Use findings from the Vision Day as a mandate for change.
Use strengths within the team and community to lead effective change.