

Lancashire Education Awards



Case Study

Establishment name:	St James Lanehead (Cluster Group)
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Project title	SWAT Diversity – Collaboration in Burnley, Nelson, Pendle and Padiham
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Award gained

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

Project summary (maximum 200 words)

Thirteen diverse schools from the Burnley, Pendle, Nelson and Padiham areas have collaborated to share good practice, work together to impact upon the aspirations and the outcomes of our pupils and staff.

The main aim is to allow the staff and pupils to achieve the best outcomes for the communities which we serve, establishing supportive networks and friendships between all the schools. The thirteen schools have trained their staff together, moderated together, shared ideas, taken part in school swaps and pooled together expertise to empower the diverse communities in which we serve, as together we are stronger.

We have also appointed 12 child ambassadors (in all of our schools) who meet and work with other children. We have held three huge events with all the schools based upon Friendship and Diversity, the impact upon the staff and pupils is immeasurable. We have filmed events in order to share these joyful moments with children and families. The children have worked with skilled artists, drama teachers from Burnley Youth Theatre and performed and filmed drama sketches. They have also worked with Burnley Leisure and the Sports Partnerships and took part in team sporting activities. The feedback from the children is inspiring and the excitement they show when working together is magical. It makes you realise and appreciate the profession we work in.

The staff and pupils have also visited each others schools and spending ' a day in the life of.... school' this has produced friendships and pride within the pupils- some of whom would never ever have met before as they come from very different cultures and backgrounds. Staff have also developed relationships and network groups. We are educating our children that no matter where you are from, school you attend, you can achieve and work in collaboration. We are teaching the children to celebrate differences and similarities and to be proud of the places we live and of our schools.

All staff have benefitted from training and professional development opportunities enabling staff to grow and share the best practice, for example all the teachers in the cluster benefitted from this years project Talk for writing, all TA's benefitted from reading and vocabulary training making such a difference to the pedagogy of the staff who we work with in the most deprived areas. Staff have developed respectful networks and share ideas and work well together, supporting one another with the aim of improving the lives of the children we work with. We felt that we needed to improve the outcomes and an area that needed improvement was writing and also spelling. We all carry out Talk for writing therefore improving speaking and listening - a huge priority for our communities! We are also currently carrying out a SWAT Spelling Bee across the schools to impact upon spelling scores across the schools and creating aspirations for future careers and academic success.

We have also used the skills in the schools to develop and grow the teachers and leaderships - examples include Deputy Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher research projects sharing good practice. SENDCo networking and sessions to name a few. We are all very proud to be part of the SWAT cluster and feel that we are breaking down the barriers to learning across the communities that we serve and together we will achieve more.

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

As a headteacher I felt that it was important to work with the other local schools rather than working in isolation. I also felt that the only time we met was usually to compete in sporting events rather than to collaborate. The aim was to break down the barriers and improve the aspirations and outcomes for pupils throughout the district.

Who led the project?

All Headteachers in the Cluster

What steps/actions did you take?

Headteacher meetings to prioritise key areas from SIP plans. Schools to commit to the SWAT, schools to ensure that they provide adequate funding for the cluster.
Appointed the child ambassadors.
Schools split into trios for moderation, school swap.
Headteachers led areas they specialised in such as SEND, English, PPG etc.

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

The Impact has been measured through questionnaires for all the schools.

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

Schools to continue to work together through the cluster and work with the children.

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

Be organised. Be passionate about the community you serve. Be ready to share with others and assist one another with the main aim - to improve the outcomes within the schools you are called to serve.