

Quality Mark Report

Quality Recognition scrutineers:

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Observational visits performed by:

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Name of Supplementary School:
Bradford Chinese School

Membership No.
NRC 1622

Introduction

Bradford Chinese School aims to provide Mandarin language education to communities in Bradford and its surrounding areas.

Bradford Chinese School was established in 2011, a charitable school aims to educate children between 5 and 15, who are interested in learning the Mandarin language and in developing an understanding and appreciation of the Chinese culture. The school now has eight classes and one adult class, providing education to more than 120 pupils. The school also provides art classes, teaching traditional Chinese brush painting by a professional art teacher.

Overview and result of visit

I visited the school on 24th September 2017 and met with the Trustee Board Chairman, Jian-Ping Li; the headteacher, Jeff Zhaw; three teaching staff and a parent. I observed three classes where a total of 24 children were being taught Mandarin. Children were actively involved during the lesson and very much engaged in the activities.

The operation of the school is all based on volunteers and parents are very much involved through the Parents' Committee. Teachers are paid via PAYE system. The school has all the policies and procedures required by Bradford Council and a named designated person for child protection.

Gosia McKane, NRCSE Regional Development Manager

Key recommendations from observation and recognition meeting

- The 'open classroom days' where parents can watch their children being taught are an excellent initiative.
- Progress is key. Evidence should show clearly the progress each pupil has made on their individual learning journey.
- For such a new organisation, you show very good progress. You are, however, heavily dependent on volunteer management and as an unincorporated charity your trustees are vulnerable. Your plans for growth need to address this.

Observational visits to school

24/09/17 to undertake class observations, meet teachers, and Headteacher and Chair of trustees. 114 children are on roll and 24 were present on 24th September 2017

How did you gather evidence?

Observation of 3 classes, discussion with Jian-Ping Li, Chair of Board, Headteacher Jeff Zhaw, Deputy head Lois Davey, teaching staff Wang Ing Weng and Georgina McPhee and Joseph Dillon one of the parents.

Which classes did you observe?

Class 1A – Chinese Heritage Class (5 girls, 4 boys) with Xiao Mei Liao teaching.

Class 2B – Dual Language Class (3 girls, 5 boys) with Wang Ing Weng teaching and Georgina McPhee assisting.

Class 5 – GCSE class (5 girls, 2 boys) with Ziyu Li teaching.

Detail of findings overall from observation and recognition meeting

Standard 1 - Create an effective learning environment

The witness statement notes ‘Currently the school is located in a modern building of The Titus Salt Grammar School. Each visitor is welcomed at the entrance by the school’s staff, asked to sign in and given visitor’s badge. There is a designated waiting area for parents at the canteen. Pupils can use outside area during the breaks supervised by the staff. The classrooms are bright and airy, plenty of light and class furniture appropriate to pupils age. The teacher arranges the classrooms to make it best suited for particular activity.’

The school demonstrated clear expectations of staff, parents and pupils. Communication was good and well structured. The school website is used to communicate with password protected ‘teachers’ corner’ and sets the tone for learning. Photos of class teachers, copies of policies and procedures, codes of conduct for staff, parents and pupils are all easily accessible. Innovative ways of engaging with parents through technology.

Standards 2, 3 and 4 - Teach effectively, record pupil progress and choose the right resources

The school website states ‘Teaching quality is our first priority. We have small classes, excellent and hard working teachers. We work and communicate closely with parents. Using innovative and interesting homework, we overcome the limitation of a weekend school. Our curriculum is challenging and fun: children learn in a multiway and multimedia teaching system. As a result, our children are motivated and enthusiastic.’

The witness statement notes 'Children were registered on arrival in class. The lessons for Class 2 and 5 were conducted in English. Pupils were actively involved.'

The evidence provided to the scrutineers showed well organized lesson plans with starter activities and main body of learning through various activities and quizzes. IT/website was clearly being used well to support teachers in preparing their lessons.

Assessment of pupils' work was shown, there was limited evidence of pupil feedback. The initial assessment of pupils was evident. Pupils' effort and attendance is encouraged through an award system. More detailed tracking of individual pupil progress would be beneficial but it was noted that this is a lot to ask of teachers who are only engaged by the organization on a very limited basis.

The witness statement notes 'Each classroom is equipped in interactive whiteboard and regularly used by teachers providing multimedia resources.'

The school presented evidence of a wide variety of resources including videos, board games, work and reference books.

Standard 5 - Plan and develop your organization

Bradford Chinese School is a charity registered with Charity Commission. The school is run by the Board of Trustees and currently it has 7 members. The Board meets twice a year and many of the trustees are involved in the school operation.

The witness statement notes 'Parents are very much involved in running of the school, supporting teaching staff through Parents Committee. The parent I spoke with said the school was very supportive with friendly staff. He appreciated being keep up to date with learning progress of his child and school's issues.'

There are Open Days organised for new parents and Open Classrooms when existing parents can observe lessons. There are parents' evenings annually and parents are consulted through a questionnaire on issues such as choice of textbooks, homework arrangements or school location.

Schools' places are very much in demand with 40 pupils on a waiting list. Pupils come from as far as Huddersfield. There is good partnership with the Leeds' Chinese schools.

The school organises events for Chinese New Year and special Graduation Ceremony at the end of the academic year. They have Culture Day and cooperate with the Confucius Institute at the Leeds University. There are good working relations with other Chinese Schools and they visit each other sharing their experience.

Standard 6 – Select and support staff and volunteers

Teachers are supported through training and there are regular staff meetings. The school developed many resources that are available for each teacher on their website. New teachers are encouraged to observe more experienced ones.

The school doesn't use as much Teacher Training from mainland China as teaching methods are so different from English approach. The school encourages teachers to observe each other's lessons. There are as well many resources shared on-line. They have text books for each student and digital teaching resources for teachers.

Standard 7 - Make sure children are safe

There are 29 staff in total – 8 paid and 21 volunteers which permits a good ratio of adults to children. All staff are required to complete Bradford's online safeguarding training. In line with Health and Safety Policy, the school organises fire drills every year.

By renting purpose-built school premises the organisation is confident that children are in a safe environment.

There is up to date Child Protection Policy with the named designated person and the staff is aware of the reporting procedures.

Standard 8 - Manage finances

Only teachers are paid and the school uses PAYE system. They have an accountant dealing within the financial side of running the school.

Bradford Chinese School is a registered charity providing annual accounts to the Charity Commission.