

Quality Mark Report

Quality Recognition Meeting took place on 13th December 2018, attended by following scrutineers:

Tunay Hussein – Retired primary headteacher, Haringey Council

Pascale Vassie – Executive Director, NRCSE

Observational visits performed 28th November and 5th December 2018 by Ertanch Hidayettin – NRCSE Quality Assurance Mentor

Name of Supplementary School:
BritSom Supplementary School

Membership No.:
NRC0780

Introduction

BritSom's members include students, graduates and professionals who recognise the importance of playing an active role in society. Established in 2008, BritSom is now a registered charity working with Somali and BMER communities of all ages in Barnet and neighbouring boroughs. The charity's mission is 'to provide services that will enable more disadvantaged people to enter the professions'. Britsom provides health & wellbeing and debt advice, as well as information and workshops on the dangers of FGM.

For 10 years, BritSom has been taking action and standing up for every child's right to fulfil their potential by running the BritSom School Learning Support Programme as well as a tailored mentoring scheme for 12-16 year olds. These projects aim to inspire children to take a lead in decisions that affect their lives and secure the best outcomes in education and employment. BritSom also provides much needed guidance and support to parents and carers who were not themselves educated within the education system in England.

The school currently provides English and maths tuition together with art and cultural activities to 41 pupils from KS1 and KS2 with 5 paid staff, 16 youth volunteers and 10 adult volunteers.

Key recommendations from observation and recognition meeting

More work could be done to strengthen the system of recording pupils' progress. Evidence was given of oral feedback but you could usefully produce written assessment and feedback and use that feedback to support progress.

From the evidence seen, your lessons appear to rely principally on worksheets and workbooks. Examples of well completed work was shown but also evidence that some learners were struggling to complete. Further work could be done on the curriculum to develop more creative and practice-focused activities, this would benefit all pupils.

Please list any outstanding achievements:

- Community links are impressive, BritSom is clearly user-led and the support for adults, especially women, valued. Engagement with local MPs and schools impressive. An impressive attention to developing strong interfaith partnerships with local Christian and Jewish schools.
- The school is sustainably managed with excellent budgeting and careful fundraising to ensure diverse sources of income.

Detail of findings overall from observation and recognition meeting

1. Create an effective learning environment – Advanced

Aims are clear and there are high expectations of staff with clear policies and procedures. Use of peer volunteers and extensive programme linking with local schools and MPs supports pupils' experiences and raises awareness. The Eversfield Centre is bright and well resourced. Britsom plays an important role in integrating newly-arrived children and families into life in London.

2. Teach effectively

Teaching plans were clear and well balanced. At the end of each session all pupils come together and discuss topical issues introduced by the co-ordinator. Pupils are forthcoming and appreciate the benefits of attending BritSom classes.

3. Record progress and achievement

Lifeskills and attendance checklists are good. Parents are asked to bring in mainstream school reports and records of achievement given out at year end. More work could be done to strengthen the system of recording pupils' progress. Evidence was given of oral feedback but you could usefully produce written assessment and feedback and use that feedback to support progress.

4. Choose the right resources

Workbooks and worksheets are used to teach and assess progress. Evidence of a more practical curriculum with more diverse teaching methods and a range of activities would be good to see.

5. Plan and develop your organization

Management Committee minutes show good attendance and community engagement. The organisation exists for the families, clearly a user-led organisation. 'We discuss issues and try to find solutions – together.' Strong engagement with all three local MPs and the Hasmorean High School for Girls has demonstrable benefits for BritSom and the children attending, 16-20 6th Form pupils attend each week and assist in children's learning.

6. Select and support staff and volunteers

Excellent, clear staff code of conduct was developed in 2016 and reviewed in 2018. All staff are DBS checked.

7. Make sure children are safe

There are clear policies on safeguarding, including child protection, health and safety and first aid. Co-ordinator and Chair attended safeguarding course with Barnet Council in 2018 and are linked in with the M.A.S.H. Discussions on FGM and health & wellbeing take place with pupils and parents.

8. Manage finances – Advanced

Funding has been successfully raised, and there are workplans to ensure that funds are spent in line with contracts and agreements. The co-ordinator was very clear about how funding is being used and the financial management and accounting procedures are good. A clear conflicts of interest policy forms part of the MC procedures.