

Quality Mark Report

Quality Recognition Meeting took place on 16th July 2019, attended by following scrutineers:

Matthew Sims, Luton Virtual School headteacher – Educational Expert

Pascale Vassie, NRCSE Executive Director – Governance Expert

Observational visits performed on 29th June 2019 by:

Ertanch Hidayettin, Quality Development Consultant, NRCSE

Name of Supplementary School:

Lewsey Farm LCT Supplementary School

Membership No.:

NRC1174

Introduction

Lewsey Farm Learning Centre Trust is a registered charity number 1107130 and a company limited by guarantee established on 11th April 2002. It was established to provide vocational skills training which will enable the local communities in Lewsey and surrounding areas to access the relevant skills leading to employment or further education, also helping to regenerate the local economy.

In the last 16 years of establishment, the Centre has successfully supported over one thousand local people to access employability training which has helped these individuals to progress in life. The supplementary school sits within this rich and varied community offer and is aimed at supporting 4 to 11 year olds with their numeracy and literacy. In addition there are visits, special projects, outings and opportunities to engage in community events.

Key recommendations from observation and recognition meeting

- The supplementary school is evidently a valuable resource for the local community, the classes are carefully planned and children attending are enthusiastic and well-behaved. Numbers are low, however, and more work is needed to provide an offer that is attractive to the current communities in the area.
- Additional funding could be sought for a specific project, to run over one term perhaps, and this could also be an opportunity to consult with children and young people in the local area to find out what would encourage them to attend.
- Discussion/partnership with local mainstream schools could also lead to referrals for children who need the extra support that you clearly have the creative team to provide.

Please list any outstanding achievements:

- Teaching staff are qualified and knowledgeable.
- Lesson plans and observation show good creative teaching and understanding of how to engage different children in learning.
- The links between provision for parents and their children are evident and well managed.

Detail of findings overall from observation and recognition meeting

1. Create an effective learning environment - Advanced

A well-organised environment with clear code of behaviour for staff and pupils. Welcome pack for parents/carers gives lots of valuable and helpful information and the wider Lewsey Learning Community Trust offers classes and activities for adults at other times. Catering for all those in the local community rather than a specific culture or heritage is not easy and LCT manages this very well. Pupils appear eager to learn. The classes take place in bright, well-equipped rooms.

2. Teach effectively - Advanced

The two teachers are experienced and ensure maths and English tuition is in line with the national curriculum. Clear lesson plans are in place and the programme of study contains detail and evidence of creative planning. Small group sizes enable focused attention on each child.

3. Record progress and achievement - Advanced

Reports and records for each child are well maintained. End of term reports are detailed and clear. 'Student of the day' and 'end of year' certificates are used to motivate pupils. Records show 30 children on roll although many were not in attendance on day of observation and this seems to be a trend in the summer term once SATS/exams have been taken.

4. Choose the right resources - Advanced

The classes have access to an IT suite and the internet is used where appropriate. Teachers prepare their own creative resources; worksheets and past SATs papers are also used with pupils. Trips to Southend-on-Sea and Stockwood Discovery Centre complement classroom based sessions.

5. Plan and develop your organisation

Lewsey Farm LCT board of directors/management committee oversees the running of the school with a sub committee made up of management committee members including the Head plus the school co-ordinator. The co-ordinator doesn't have access to the website which, therefore, doesn't contain much detail about the supplementary school. Similarly a newsletter for parents is planned but not currently produced. More consultation with parents/carers attending the Centre for adult activities is needed to ensure the supplementary education provision remains relevant and attractive.

6. Select and support staff and volunteers

The three staff are unpaid. A volunteer agreement is in place but doesn't relate clearly to the educational provision. Safeguarding, Child Protection and Emergency First Aid training has been completed.

7. Make sure children are safe - Advanced

Policies and procedures are comprehensive and contain appropriate reference to KCSIE and Working Together to Safeguard Children. Safeguarding is an integral part of staff induction and training. Risk assessment of the premises and a detailed registration form gathers appropriate information and consent. The Welcome Pack includes information on E-Safety and signals the links between LFLCT and the appropriate authorities existing to protect children.

8. Manage finances

The Lewsey Farm Learning Centre Trust is funded by Luton Borough Council, the school operates within this funding with a small amount of specific income from session fees, since the number attending has dropped this is a matter of concern. Financial procedures are managed by LFLCT and the accounts are published on Companies House and Charity Commission websites. Expenditure exceeds income. It is strongly recommended that the organisation consults with local families, plan additional activities and gets support to apply for funding to support its good and valuable work for the local community.