

Schools in Focus

Children and Parents Alliance

What does your school do?

Our school works with children and young people from different backgrounds to improve their education, social abilities and personal skills. Our staff come from various cultural backgrounds, and speak languages including Spanish, Punjabi and Urdu. We do both direct teaching and group activities such as drama, and individual projects for sharing in "Show and Tell" presentations. Visiting the library, undertaking mini research and role modelling are important aspects of our work.



What impact do you have on children and young people?

The children who attend are able to have fun while they learn. They develop their personalities and confidence and gain community and cultural awareness, demonstrate positive attitudes towards their mainstream school subjects and want to further their education.

How do you know you have an impact?

By their general keenness and participation. We have also taken part in community events at the museum, and children who attend are always willing to share their skills through "peering" relationships. Parents are also invited to participate in what the children do; such support is always welcomed by both children and staff.

Aqoon Complementary School

What does your school do?

Aqoon Complementary School provides complementary education to children aged between 9-16 (Key Stages 2,3 & 4). Children attending Aqoon complementary classes receive 2 hours additional learning opportunities in Maths and English and occasionally we provide recreational and outdoor activities such as sports and trips. Classes are delivered on a Saturday between 10.00am and 12.00pm.



What impact do you have on children and young people?

Around 100 pupils attend our complementary classes each week and our teachers are qualified. Children attending our classes are assessed and teachers provide support that matches their needs. We also undertake continuous assessment through test and classroom observations. In addition, we also deliver parental engagement workshops for parents to help them engage with their children's learning.

How do you know you have an impact?

Aqoon works very closely with pupils' mainstream schools and they share with us their own pupil progress records. As the teaching is targeted it complements mainstream schoolwork, and we have a rigorous assessment system which monitors the children's progress. Children are asked to provide end of school year report/test results and complete an end of programme survey.



Leicester Complementary Schools Trust



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Complementary Schools Bulletin

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Leicester

Leicester celebrates its complementary schools' achievements

The LCST supports and speaks for the positive contributions that complementary schools are making in the lives of children and young people in Leicester city. To highlight and to recognise this contribution, the LCST and the SDSA held another successful celebration event on Thursday 3rd April 2014.

Leicester based complementary schools were asked to nominate two young people and a teacher to receive an award for their outstanding performance. Those students who were nominated by their school had been selected on the basis of academic achievement in the complementary school, behaviour and motivation towards their learning as well as their contribution to the school's activities.

The event was a great success, and there were presentations, performances and speeches. Young people from the Leicester Kerala, Leicester Tamil Kalvikoodam, Ramgharia Panjabi School, Leicester Chinese Sunday School and Jalaram Bal Vikas performed at the event.



Complementary Schools - Updates

Training and Useful Information

Complementary Schools Development Hub Project

The LCST has successfully delivered a number of training and capacity development events for Leicester based complementary schools since the last bulletin. Over twenty complementary school teachers and volunteers have successfully taken part in the OCN accredited **'Effective Teaching in Supplementary Schools'** Course.

The course has enabled the participants to critically evaluate their teaching skills and methods and participants were very appreciative of the knowledge and experience they gained from the range of topics covered in the training including;

- the roles and responsibilities of teachers
- how they can support children's welfare and special educational needs
- how to plan an effective lesson and use resources to enhance learning
- the different ways in which pupils learn and strategies to support learners
- formative and summative assessment
- when and why to assess and the importance of assessment
- how to evaluate their own teaching
- how to understand the teaching/training cycle.

The course is very interactive, and provides plenty of discussion opportunities for learners to share their experiences, take part in group and individual exercises, and make a presentation to the group. Each learner is expected to write a reflective diary, an action plan and submit some short written activities, collecting evidence about their complementary school and their teaching in a practice file. In addition to the teaching hours, learners need to spend ten hours at home or at their complementary school, preparing the practice file and diary.

Feedback given by the participants has shown their enthusiasm and acknowledgement of the impact that the course has had on their teaching practice in the classroom and their profound change of attitudes towards the diverse needs of pupils in their classrooms.



"Since attending the course I am now very confident in planning effective lesson according to the needs of my learners which will enable me to manage the classroom effectively."

As part of the LCST's strategic commitment to help complementary schools develop and improve their capacity, it has also delivered a number of workshops around safeguarding and child protection, inclusion and special educational needs, paediatric first aid, and mentoring and support to managers and co-ordinators in complementary schools.

LCST Website: The LCST has launched a new website for Leicester based complementary schools to access useful information, LCST membership and training, as well as discussion forums. To find out more visit: www.lcst.org.uk.

National Resource Centre for Supplementary Education (NRCSE) also delivers training which you may be interested in. For more information, visit: www.supplementaryeducation.org.uk.

What can the LCST do for your complementary school?

How can I access the OCN 'Effective Teaching in Supplementary Schools' Course?

The LCST is willing to continue to provide this fantastic course in the next academic year - if you are interested and would like to receive further information please get in touch. This course is for complementary school teachers who work or volunteer for Leicester City based complementary schools. The total cost per learner is £200, and the LCST is willing to make a contribution to support teachers from LCST member schools depending on the school's needs. Teachers who are not practising in complementary schools can attend if they show commitment to undertaking a complementary school placement during the course.

There is a maximum of 15 places available each time the course is run, and only LCST members can access this course. The duration of the course is from 8 to 10 weeks (2-4 hours per week). Participants have the option to apply for either Level 2 or Level 3 accreditation. The next course will be in September 2014 - e-mail info@lcst.org.uk for more information.

What else can the LCST do for your complementary school?

As well as opportunities to access free training, LCST member schools can access the following services.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks (previously CRB checks)

The LCST arranges support for complementary schools to comply with the legislation and guidance for the criminal disclosure of its staff and volunteers. These arrangements are competitively priced and, if possible, provided without charge.

Insurance

It is essential that every complementary school has adequate insurance. The LCST has arranged competitive cover for complementary schools that are members of the Trust.

Language teaching schools

Some complementary schools exist specifically to help children and young people to learn community languages. Leicester City Council is especially interested in helping these complementary schools and linking them with maintained schools so that the children and young people can obtain recognition for that learning. For example, some complementary schools enter their students for GCSE exams in Gujarati, Polish, Arabic, etc.

Complementary Schools Mentoring

Member schools in Leicester can access mentoring for their management, teaching and learning as well as governance for their schools.

Quality Framework Mentoring Programme

The Quality Framework is a voluntary quality recognition scheme, which is independent, peer-assessed and self-regulated. It is run for and by supplementary schools and those who support them. Complementary schools should become members of the NRCSE which oversees the quality framework. Complementary schools can gain a Quality Framework Award at bronze, silver or gold level. These levels cover teaching and learning, governance and community engagement.

The LCST can provide support to complementary schools that are interested in applying for a Bronze Level award in the form of mentoring and peer support.

How can my school become a member of the Leicester Complementary Schools Trust?

Membership is free and simply requires a signed declaration by the complementary school that provides basic information about their activities and an agreement to share them with other complementary schools and with the public through the Trust's website.

LCST membership can be made online via its website www.lcst.org.uk/members-and-membership/. You can also complete a paper membership form which can be obtained by calling us on 0116 299 5977 or emailing info@lcst.org.uk.