

EXECUTIVE MEMBER REPORT TO COUNCIL 11 January 2016

Abingdon Primary School – School of Sanctuary Award

1. Abingdon Primary School, in central Middlesbrough, is the first school among the region's five authorities - Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton, Darlington and Hartlepool - to be recognised as a School of Sanctuary. The award recognises the work that staff and pupils do to help children who are new arrivals to the country to settle and begin to learn. The school has been awarded its certificate following a rigorous assessment process. To become a 'school of sanctuary', the school must be a "safe and welcoming place for all".
2. The Schools of Sanctuary Award is given by the City of Sanctuary movement to schools that have consistently put the sanctuary principles into practice. These principles are:
3. Learn about what it means to be seeking sanctuary and be actively involved in awareness raising (e.g. talks and training for students and staff, celebrating Refugee Week).
4. Take positive action to make welcoming and for inclusion to be a strong part of the values of your school, to support sanctuary seekers and refugees, and to include them in your activities (e.g. displays, school procedures, fundraising). Share your vision and achievements with parents and governors, your cluster, and the wider Schools of Sanctuary network (e.g. post lesson plans online, take part in events).
5. To gain the Award, schools need to compile a portfolio of evidence. The whole process take around one academic year. The process of working towards the Award should enable students at the school to gain a better understanding of issues of identity, diversity, equality and community.
6. Many children arrive from countries where they have had little or no schooling. Abingdon leader, Natasha Collins, takes particular responsibility for the teaching of children with English as an additional language (EAL) and has led on the big to achieve the School of Sanctuary award. "It's difficult for them but we are positive and we try to make sure every child leaves at the right level."
7. The school has a language base for those pupils who don't have any English – here pupils receive intensive early help in learning English. After a short period of time

children are usually able to go into class and participate in teaching and learning alongside their peers. The base gives children a great start for them to start and succeed.



8. The award recognises the work the school does for all children with EAL and the way that staff work to help each child with different challenges – from some second and third generation Pakistani children struggling with specific grammatical issues, to refugees who come from war torn countries across the world.
9. Abingdon helps children to understand the difficulties facing international new arrivals, regularly learning about the challenges facing refugee children and adults, taking part in food collections and charity drives, employing teaching assistant staff to accommodate for any language, and also introducing innovative ‘Sanctuary Buddies’. These are Year 6 pupils who volunteer to help children across the school, providing a safe person for anyone to approach. They also have a ‘buddy bench’ for kids who don’t have a friend to play with.
10. Other schools are now preparing to apply for the School of Sanctuary award.

Reading Town

11. Middlesbrough hosted this year’s annual Northern Children’s Book Festival Gala Day on 19th November at Central Library and mima the Mayor and several councillors attended the event.
12. The major family literary event is part of the Northern Children’s Book Festival, a two-week regional celebration of books and reading in schools and public areas across the North East which has run since 1983. It is organised by the 12 North East public library services and last held it’s Gala Day in Middlesbrough in 2003.
13. The day-long event included creative workshops, artistic activities and sessions with internationally famous authors and illustrators.
14. As part of the day, The National Literacy Trust working with Middlesbrough Local Authority and schools launched Middlesbrough – A Reading Town, which is a drive to increase parental and community engagement and education across the town. A

number of schools created colourful 'Book Benches' that were displayed in Centre square Gala Day. These benches, decorated by children with their favourite book titles and characters, have now been returned to the schools that sponsored them.

Outwood Acklam – National Support School

15. In November, Outwood Acklam was designated a National Supported School by the National College for Teaching and Leadership. This status is given to those schools who apply and meet the criteria:

A. Be judged to be at least good

Your schools most recent Ofsted inspection has judged the school to be:

- At least 'Good' for 'Overall Effectiveness, 'Leadership and Management' and 'teaching and learning' or Quality of Teaching'

B. Demonstrate sustained high pupil performance and progress over the last three years

- Department for Education performance data shows high levels of progress and attainment for all pupils and particular groups of pupils especially disadvantaged and low prior attaining pupils, and
- Latest performance data demonstrated that the school is above the current floor standard

C. The capacity to support schools in challenging circumstances to improve

Evidence that the schools has strong senior and middle leaders with the capacity to provide support to schools in challenging circumstances for a minimum of 1-2 days per week

16. The Principal, Mark Hassack, is a National Leader in Education and is supporting the development of Outwood Ormesby to improve its outcomes. The academy also works with other Middlesbrough schools and runs training events and conferences for a wide range of schools from the North of England.

17. The academy take their role seriously and support the development of teaching and leadership e.g. through the successful Transforming leaders programme which is currently attended by staff from 4 other local schools.

18. The Academy has worked with a range of schools beyond the town to develop bespoke and tiered leadership programmes from middle to senior leadership. This includes taking a strong lead to ensure equality for women in leadership roles.

19. Mark Hassack was also mentioned in a recent speech from Sir Michael Wilshaw in his final weeks in office as Ofsted's Chief Inspector. At a meeting of the Education Policy institute, Sir Michael stated that Mark was one of the principals who are

showing what can be done in areas of significant social and economic disadvantage.

20. The Outwood Grange Academies Trust also cited as a case study in Sir Nick Weller's recent report – A Northern Powerhouse Schools Strategy (November 2016). The report highlighted the impact of the collaborative planning and subject leadership in developing coherent programmes of learning across the trust.

New appointment

21. Jo Smith, currently Head teacher at St Claire's Primary, has been appointed to the headship at Breckon Hill Primary School. The appointment will begin in September 2017 when Cherry Diemoz, Breckon Hill's Head teacher for the past 17 years, will retire.

Councillor Janice Brunton
Executive Member for Education & Skills

Safeguarding in Schools

22. Some of the most recent support given to schools by the LA has included advice and guidance on action to be taken in the event of bomb scares (1 has occurred in recent months and the school was evacuated successfully), offers of further support from the road safety team for best practice for families travelling to and from school, support for the implementation of the new Safeguarding guidance to schools which will take effect from September 2016, support for the delivery of teaching on Sex and Relationships, and further support in the use of CPOMS which will include further training to ensure that schools use this web-based recording system to best effect for vulnerable children.

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