



...Shaping Future Learning

...at Kingsfold Primary School, Penwortham

Kingsfold Primary School embarked upon their creative curriculum journey with a lot at stake. Being a school in special measures meant the staff were under pressure to raise standards and any pre-Ofsted plans to develop a creative curriculum had to be shelved as a result of other more pressing priorities. However, when an interim visit identified developing writing across the curriculum as an area for development, the school decided this was a prime opportunity to go for a more cross-curricular approach to teaching and learning generally. They also wanted to give the less academic children a chance to show their skills and shine in a creative way.

A glowing referral from a colleague led them to Dimensions.
Deputy Headteacher, Simon Pritchard takes up the story....

"As a school in special measures we had to get things right. We felt that we needed help in working through the curriculum design process and Dimensions provided all the support we needed. The Design Modules were crucial in helping us make the curriculum our own. The 'Aims' section provided us with a clear starting point and from there we developed our focus. We were able to involve staff and give them far greater ownership over what they were teaching.

The toolkit acted as a framework, allowing us flexibility to shape learning. It is very adaptable and easy to change. Dimensions has allowed our teachers to be more thoughtful and creative in their planning, using the theme-base to really think about the skills they are going to teach rather than being mainly content-driven."

Class teacher, Liz Jones, adds,

“The Assessment Tools have been a key success of Dimensions. Staff have been actively using the Theme Assessment Sheets to plan differentiated lessons. The Assessment Wheel has also fed into teachers planning, helping them to focus on what the children need to learn. They’ve found the system both practical and useful, not just another paperwork exercise.

“We now have a school where both staff and pupils are motivated and enthusiastic. It’s great to hear teachers saying, “I can’t wait to teach....x” and their enjoyment of teaching again is clearly being communicated to the pupils. Children want to continue their learning at home; they want to learn. I had some reluctant writers but, because they can now see the purpose behind it, they’re keen to put pencil to paper.

Simon summarises,

“We’re keen to show Ofsted what great strides we’ve made together. Dimensions Creative Curriculum Design has helped to change our school into a vibrant, creative learning centre and it can help change yours too!”

