



...Shaping Future Learning

...at St. Matthew's CE Primary School, Preston

St Matthew's Church of England Primary School has an above average number of pupils on roll. It is situated in an inner city area where there is a high degree of social deprivation. The percentage of pupils eligible for a free school meal is well above that in most schools. Almost two thirds of the pupils speak English as an additional language, with a high percentage in the Foundation Stage at a very early stage of learning to speak English. When children start school they have well below average skills.

Headteacher Roger Small, along with Creative Curriculum Leaders Dawn Elliott and Nasrin Patel tell their Dimensions story...

"We embarked upon a creative curriculum because we felt that the way in which we were currently teaching was not suited to our pupils. They lacked stimulation and the motivation to learn.

We'd been on courses and looked at what other schools were doing. Many seemed to be starting the process of developing the curriculum themselves and then hitting major problems and obstacles. We sought expertise, support and help in the shape of Dimensions. We wanted to be leaders not followers...forward-thinkers... so we used Dimensions to help our vision become a reality.

Dimensions helped us stay on track, kept us focused and gave us confidence knowing that everything was covered. We were able to think more in-depth about what we really wanted our curriculum to look like.

The positive impact of using Dimensions in school has been clear to see. Better behaviour, an atmosphere of creativity around school and pupils actively engaged in the learning process are just some of the positive outcomes we have seen so far. Parents are showing a much greater interest in school and talking about what their children are learning, whilst pupils are motivated to continue their learning at home independently, often bringing into school items they have made or information they have researched, linked to their theme.

We would not hesitate to recommend using Dimensions as an excellent way to plan and organise a creative curriculum and are proud to be a flagship school.”



Dawn Elliott

Roger Small

Nasrin Patel