



The Zone

An Education Improvement Partnership in North Islington

zone**news**

## **Feedback** from the Headteachers' Conference November 2006

The Zone is an Education Improvement Partnership (EIP). Its aim is to support sustainable development within its schools by focussing on teacher-centred development of classroom practice and by providing mutual support and challenge.

Recently Headteachers from The Zone attended a conference to share ideas about how they can develop further opportunities for their schools to work together.

The outcomes of the conference are produced here for everyone connected with The Zone to share, in particular staff and governors.

**Mary Gibson, Headteacher of Yerbury School, summed up by saying,**

*'The staff and governors at Yerbury really value being part of The Zone and the support and challenge provided by being part of a wider learning network.'*

*'We have particularly appreciated the emphasis on professional development in the classroom which directly impacts on the children's learning.'*

At the conference, Headteachers were asked:

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN FROM THE EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIP (EIP)?

Their responses are shown below:

### Benefits for pupils and staff:

Opportunities to work with pupils and staff from other schools in a range of settings (e.g. Arsenal, Transition)

To secure continued school improvement through partnership

Peer support – sharing ideas, good practice

Share resources and facilities

Staff development – particularly leadership

Strategic and hands-on ICT support

Problem solving

Sustainable development

Opportunities to learn about new developments in education

CAME

Opportunities for transition work EY-Primary and Primary-Secondary e.g. Creative Arts Partnerships, MfL, Technology

KS1 – support for issues around achievement

Development of tracking individual children and interpretation of data

ICT advice and support

Leading from the Middle

Developing coaching and mentoring

Increased confidence and self-value

Opportunities to develop a creative/integrated curriculum

Training and continued support ELS and ALS

### Benefits for myself as Headteacher:

Inspiration

Data analysis to support school self-evaluation

Headteacher/leadership development – keeping ahead of the game

Opportunities to share vision and where the school is going

Increased confidence

The next question to Headteachers was:

WHAT CAN YOU (AND YOUR STAFF) CONTRIBUTE TO THE EIP?

Their responses are shown below:

### Contribution that headteacher and staff can make to the EIP:

Individual expertise of staff e.g. Early Years  
Effective use of data  
Assessment for Learning  
Interactive teaching – effective practice  
Lead teacher  
SENCO  
Parental links  
Extended school  
Training opportunities across The Zone  
Early Years expertise especially in relation to EPPE  
Holistic approach from Sure Start to Children's Centres  
Knowledge and expertise in aspects of the curriculum  
Opportunities for secondment  
Middle management to lead development  
Positive attitude to participation in projects  
Payback for input received in training i.e. input to CPD and sharing good practice  
Partnership work – willing to participate  
Able to respond to identified needs in zone  
Willingness to support each other  
Willingness to release staff for training  
Agreement trialling – moderating and levelling pupils work  
Home School Support  
Parent learners  
Links with different groups of learners  
Use of Target Tracker with Palm Pilot in Early Years  
Sharing behaviour management strategies  
Provide subject expertise, e.g. MfL, Science, Maths  
Deputy Head providing leadership for network within zone e.g. Early Years  
ICT extra-curricular – effective practice  
Building better understanding of how young children learn

Finally they were asked:

HOW IS THE VISION OF THE ZONE COMMUNICATED TO YOUR STAFF?

The table below shows what channels are used in schools for what audiences:

Communication channel	Which of these do you utilise in your school?	To whom?	Frequency/number of times per term
Meeting with SLT	Most schools	SLT members	Whenever relevant
Staff Meeting	Some	All teaching staff	Whenever relevant
Notice Board	Few	School community	Whenever relevant
Email	Not all staff have email access so also passed on as hard copy where necessary	Whoever relevant	
Zone Newsletter	Most distribute it	Parents and Staff Staff Noticeboard Parents Noticeboard	
School Newsletter	Some items	Whole school community	
School Assembly	Some	Whole school community	
SEF	Some	Ofsted, CEA, Staff, Governors	
Staff Recruitment	Few	Candidates	
Zone staff participating in INSET	Some	Attendees	When necessary
Special Events e.g. Harvest Supper, CAME	Few	As applicable e.g. parents	

This newsletter was written and edited by Lynda Maple, Sandra Crapper, zone consultants and Gaynor Cashin, Project Director. If you want to know more about any of the topics discussed at the conference or any of The Zone activities please get in touch with us on [\(020\) 7272 0420](tel:02072720420). Suggestions for zone projects are always welcome.