



28th May 2019

Mrs Heidi Barton
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Date of Centre of Excellence Review: 20th May 2019

It was a real pleasure to visit Burnt Oak Primary School for their second Centre of Excellence review and to see all of the work that they have been doing to ensure they are inclusive and support children in the best way that they can. They are very proud to be an inclusive school and the staff go out of their way to make sure that all children feel part of the Burnt Oak family.

The school achieved Centre of Excellence status in April 2017 and since their last review in April 2018, the school have continued to build on their inclusive practices through their COE targets. In 2018 the school also had an OFSTED inspection that recognised that, "Leaders provide a wide variety of support for vulnerable families. Consequently, the schools work to promote pupils' social and emotional well-being is strong." (OFSTED 2018)

The school are now working closely with their School Improvement Advisor to ensure that other recommendations in the report are worked on before their next inspection.

During my visit, I was able to speak to a number of staff, have lunch with the children and talk about approaches the Educational Psychologist is using across the school to support staff with their roles in supporting children with their learning and behaviour. I was also able to meet the school's new therapeutic dog, Beau. Together with the SENCO they are going through a process of intense training so that Beau can support a variety of needs in the school. I was able to see this first hand with a young man who struggles to stay focused and needs frequent reward strategies. One of the strategies the SENCO uses is to get the children to help Beau with her training, and the child was delighted to be able to show me what 'skills' he was teaching her. The SENCO has taken on a large amount of work and training to ensure that this project is used to support the Social, Emotional and Mental Health of the children throughout the school. This is a project that I look forward to seeing on my next visit to see how it develops and supports, building on Burnt Oaks inclusive practice.

The SENCO has also been actively involved in attending IQM cluster group meetings and has used these to support his own inclusive practices, as well as researching how strategies used by other schools could be used at Burnt Oak to develop its own

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practices. Most notable is the adoption of 'Sanctuary Play' in their Forest room, as seen in Joy Lane Primary School, where Peer Mediators are available to play quiet games with children who need additional support.

Through my discussions with the school about the progress made since the last IQM Centre of Excellence assessment, and their plans for the future, I am of the opinion that the Burnt Oak Primary School should continue to hold Centre of Excellence status and be reviewed again in one year's time. The next review will look closely at how the school has interacted with its Inclusion Cluster and promoted continuing outreach. Evidence of Cluster working will underpin the capacity for the school to maintain its COE status. The school is also keen to become an IQM Flagship school and will begin to plan their project before their next assessment.

Thank you again Burnt Oak for making me feel so welcome in your very inclusive school!

Assessor: Amanda Love

Findings confirmed by Inclusion Quality Mark (UK) Ltd:



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Joe McCann MBA NPQH
Director of Inclusion Quality Mark (UK) Ltd