

CREATIVE LEARNING / COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP



TOWARDS 2006

1. MILESTONES

- The EAZ Joint Action Forum in October 2003 set the direction towards EFFECTIVE LEARNING as the core purpose of the work of the two zones. The aim was to develop strategies and a culture that could be developed by and sustained beyond 2006.
- The EAZ Executive formed a Headteacher working party to define a zone wide programme
- The EAZ Finance Committee laid down baseline principles for funding shared practice
- The Third EAZ Conference March 2004 was a major consultation exercise to develop the programme

2. THE KEY COMPONENTS

EAZ thinking has focussed on two key components that will transform approaches to raising attainment and achievement for all pupils.

CREATIVE LEARNING

Imaginative and innovative approaches to learning, seeking to raise motivation and the quality of the learning experience. A new look at the context in which pupils learn leading to a re-examination of the present structures within the curriculum.

COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

Classroom teachers are a vital source and where imaginative and innovative approaches need to be rooted. However, a collaborative approach was the key strategy for maximising results and adding value. It also provides the key to a change in mind set and the process of shared practice as the essence of sustainability beyond 2006.

1. STRATEGIC APPROACHES

The strategic approach has been to:

- Maximise opportunities
- Identify and remove barriers
- The emphasis has been on classroom teachers drawn from all EAZ schools working together on the key components.
- Two operational groups of “lead learners” were formed:

Curriculum Design

Effective Learning

As the programme developed, it was anticipated that the two groups would seek to be decision makers in formulating and leading the programme. Beyond 2006, they would become the key leaders of the project on behalf schools as a whole.

2. DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROGRAMME

The programme has been planned and developed in association with:

- Mind Friendly Learning (MFL)
- The Executive Coaching Programme, The Centre for Educational Leadership, University of Manchester (CEL)

Milestones:

- Sept/ Oct 2004 MFL training with EAZ Executive and EAZ Team; awareness raising sessions with teaching staff (550)
- Oct 2004 CEL three day training with EAZ Executive
- EAZ Schools each nominate two Lead Learners for specific training
- Nov 04/ Feb 05 MFL six day training with Lead Learners
- Jan 05 CEL three day training with Lead Learners
- April/ May 05 MFL Action Research/ Co-Coaching support in EAZ Schools.
- June 05 + MFL/ CEL Review and Support cycle

Feedback from Lead Learners:

“ It has made US look at ourselves as teachers (a good thing!) and has given us the belief and licence to be creative”

“It has given me a fresh insight into how children learn it puts the child at the very centre of teaching”

“ The course has re-energised and given me a completely new focus for my everyday teaching. I feel that I am a different teacher within a short time span”