



www.skein.org.uk

Effective Professional Learning in Schools: *driving progress through SKEIN*

A recent, large scale and rigorous review of the international evidence about the effectiveness of leadership contributions to school improvement highlights one thing that makes most difference to pupils – more than twice as much as any other¹. This crucial x factor is the way leaders invest in, model and structure their own and their staff's professional development and learning.

Here at CUREE, we have identified from this and other international and English evidence about effective CPD, five core aspects of a school's approach to staff and leadership learning which actually benefit pupils and a service to help you drive forward school improvement. It also helps with evidence for the leadership aspect of the new OfSTED framework. This is what one Headteacher said about her report:

"The report was very thorough and helped us identify new ways of making stronger and more transparent links between our CPD and improving pupil learning. We particularly valued recommendations about how, building on our ongoing school improvement work and making small changes to existing mechanisms and structures, we could significantly strengthen our CPD and have better evidence about its impact on our staff and pupils". (Headteacher, Rokeby Primary School)

What are the benefits?

SKEIN will contribute to school improvement, support your journey towards being a good or an outstanding school and help to keep you there when you have made it.

This is because SKEIN:

- Creates a coherent CPD approach across your school, which models, and so reinforces, effective learning approaches for staff and for pupils
- Develops your in-school CPD capacity and reduces your dependency on external providers
- Gives you the information you need to make strategic decisions about professional learning goals and needs
- Links staff learning with pupil learning, enhancing your Ofsted evidence base

SKEIN goes way beyond the usual 'tick box' subjective assessments because it uses impact data to shape judgements and decisions about the effectiveness of CPD. Instead of bureaucratic form filling and subjective opinionnaires, you will generate evidence of improvement efficiently through engaging and useful teaching and learning activities. What's more, staff enthusiasm for professional development will increase.

What services would my school receive?

We know that schools have different starting points, different needs and budgets. So we offer you a choice of a core service and additional options that you can build incrementally or take as a package. Contact us for a free consultation about what might work best for you.

¹ You can find a user friendly summary of this research here <http://www.curee.co.uk/news/2009/12/school-leadership-and-student-outcomes>

Core package

- A school visit to collect evidence from interviews and developmental focus group activities
- Pre-visit documentary analysis
- An initial diagnostic report
- A set of recommendations and pointers to relevant resources to create an action plan – all carried out by a quality assured researcher and CPD specialist
- Access to resources and tools in the restricted area of the SKEIN website including membership of a forum of similar schools

Additional options

- In or out of school briefing session for the CPD leader(s) on the benchmarks and practical tools that the school can use during the year to support and track progress
- A follow up visit to recognise and calibrate progress and identify next steps
- Periodic SKEIN e-news with range of news, tips, 'case studies' and research tasters
- Discounts (at least 20%) on a range of CPD services, including:
 1. Effective Mentoring and Coaching tools;
 2. Bespoke route maps (providing a progressive pathway through research based tools and resources for tackling in-school priorities)

Why Skein?

SKEIN is not an acronym, it's the term for a flight of geese (and it means reflect in Norwegian). It is provided by CUREE working in partnership with others, including HTI, to help you drive forward school improvement. It will give you good information about how to build on strengths, areas for development and cost effective next steps.

If you would like to know more about this new, bespoke service contact Lisa Bradbury or Natalia Buckler using the contact details. If you would like the opportunity to benefit from the service at a nominal price and to help shape its design, contact us about becoming a Pathfinder member.

Lisa Bradbury lisa.bradbury@curee.co.uk
Natalia Buckler natalia.buckler@curee.co.uk
024 7652 4036
Centre for the Use of Research & Evidence in Education, 4 Copthall House, Station Square, Coventry, CV1 2FL