

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR SCHOOLS & EDUCATION

COUNCILLOR DAVE HARLING

PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING

DIRECTOR: LINDA CLEGG

DATE: 6TH OCTOBER 2016

PRIMARY ENGINEER PROJECT

Ten Blackburn with Darwen primary schools will be taking part in a Primary Engineer project pilot with training for teachers starting in October.

Primary Engineer is a series of programmes for both primary and secondary schools which aims to bring the curriculum to life through engineering. The programme uses a 'STEM by Stealth' approach to practical Mathematics, Science and Literacy through Design and Technology projects and is designed to fulfil the requirements of the new curriculum and link each school to local engineers who can provide a professional context for learning.

Two local engineering companies, Optima and Precision Polymer Engineering, are already on board to support the programme with additional firms expected to sign up.

The Hive is supporting with 50% of the funding required and schools are providing the remaining 50%. After the first year pilot, the plan is to upscale to include all primary schools across the borough and eventually secondary schools, through the Secondary Engineer programme.

OFSTED INSPECTION OUTCOMES

Schools within Blackburn with Darwen are strong with 85% of children attending a school judged by Ofsted to be good or better. No school in the borough is in an Ofsted category (special measures or serious weaknesses).

Of the 10 schools inspected in the 2015/16 academic year, all but two either maintained their previous judgement or improved on it - with four schools judged good and one rated as outstanding.

PROVISIONAL EDUCATION RESULTS FOR 2015/16

- ***Early Years Foundation Stage & Key Stage 1***

The percentage of children with a good level of development at the end of reception is up 7% year on year and continuing to narrow the gap to the national average.

Phonics performance is at the national average with 81% of children working at expected levels.

At the end of Key Stage 1, 1% of children are above national average for the proportion of children at expected level or higher in each of Reading, Writing and Maths.

- **Key Stage 2**

The performance of schools that support some of our most deprived areas was truly outstanding this year and several of the schools achieved above national average levels of performance when they serve communities amongst the most deprived 5% in the country and serve communities that typically struggle to make good progress (White/UK children from deprived backgrounds).

Blackburn with Darwen is 1% beneath the national average at the Reading, Writing and Maths 'at expected level' measure, but 3% above the average for similar authorities. Maths performance is very strong and better than the national average and 6% above similar authorities.

- **GCSE Performance**

In 2016 a completely altered accountability framework was introduced and therefore it is difficult to analyse performance against the previous year in the absence of proper comparative data. However, from the one indicator that was common across the two years, A*-C in English and Maths, we appear to have improved our overall performance by about 4%, which is against the rumoured national trend.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE SCHOOLS PROJECT

A Community Resilience Schools Project has been developed by the Civil Contingencies Team in conjunction with Schools and Education and the local emergency services. The scheme aims to raise awareness of emergency planning with Year 5 pupils and enhance self-resilience within the community.

Three schools took part in the initial pilots; St Francis' CE Primary School, St Michael with St John Primary School and St Barnabas & St Paul's Primary School. From October 2016 the project will be available to all schools.

As part of the project pupils take part in workshops including learning to keep calm in an emergency and making home safety plans and grab bags. Pupils also learn about the roles of the emergency services and the Local Authority in an emergency and discuss national and international emergencies such as floods and earthquakes.

HEADTEACHER NEW APPOINTMENTS

A warm welcome to Headteachers and Acting Headteachers who have started in post this term; Michele Battersby (St Silas CE Primary), Paula Duckworth (Lammack Primary School), Christopher Dugdale (St Paul's CE Primary, Hoddlesden) and Vicky Brown (Avondale Primary).

The following Acting Headteachers are in post: David Cane and Fiona Beaumont (Darwen Aldridge Community Academy), Debbie Greenwood (St Aidan's CE Primary), Vicki Milne (Holy Trinity Primary), Gary Foster (St Paul's RC Primary, Feniscowles), Dave Hallam (Acting Principal, Darwen Vale High School) and Judith Draper (Wensley Fold CE Primary).