



Case Study: schoolcentre.net in North Yorkshire

What is schoolcentre.net and how is it used?

schoolcentre.net is a tool which provides schools with a flexible yet structured environment to manage their self-evaluation, school improvement planning and evidence gathering. Here's a step-by-step guide:

1. The starting point is the **self-evaluation area**. This provides a comprehensive self-evaluation framework based on Ofsted guidelines and includes the complete Ofsted Self Evaluation Form (SEF).
2. During the self-evaluation process, the **School Improvement Plan (SIP)** is created. Via school improvement actions that can be inserted against each SEF question, the SIP is linked directly to the SEF ensuring it stays relevant and up-to-date.
3. Individual users can be assigned **actions** from the SIP. Users can then log in from home or school to progress these actions and update the system.
4. **Evidence** and other documentation can easily be uploaded to the SIP. It is stored securely in a central location and can be accessed by any stakeholder with the appropriate privileges.
5. School clusters can create their own **shared areas** where they can collaborate together to create resource libraries or action plans.
6. When the school is ready, schoolcentre.net will send the completed SEF straight to the **Ofsted website** for you – no need to log in separately or for laborious cutting and pasting.

To view an online brochure, please go to www.schoolcentre.net/showme

It includes video interviews of teachers in Sheffield who use schoolcentre.net, press reviews and information on key features.

Summary

From January until March 2007, 27 Primary, 5 Secondary and 3 special schools in North Yorkshire ran a pilot to trial *schoolcentre.net*, an online self-evaluation and school improvement tool. This case study aims to give you a concise overview of the resource, the pilot and developments in North Yorkshire since the pilot ended.

Introduction

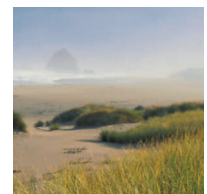
By Rosemary Rayne, General Advisor, Primary, and Heather Bell, Senior Advisor, North Yorkshire

North Yorkshire LA has long-supported its schools with self-evaluation and development planning. Over the years, we have developed materials that have been well used by schools, including our comprehensive web portal for those involved in education, early years, adult learning and youth services in North Yorkshire - www.n-yorks.net.

We thought that a web-based approach might help schools in their school planning and following a demonstration from Granada Learning, a research bid was submitted to enable a small number of schools to trial *schoolcentre.net*. The potential of the online tool was clear to see, not least as it could provide schools with a flexible yet structured online environment to manage their self-evaluation process. We also liked the more sophisticated technical features that schools would find useful, particularly the uploading of the School Evaluation Form (SEF) to the Ofsted website.

North Yorkshire selected a number of schools to take part in the trial of *schoolcentre.net*, based on size, geographical spread and those that had reasonable ICT capability. Following the three month pilot, schools reported that *schoolcentre.net* had become an invaluable resource that had helped them to improve their school development planning processes in many ways.

School leaders found that their school planning became more 'organic', bringing everything together in to an organised and dynamic environment. The fact that *schoolcentre.net* is an online tool meant that planning became an ongoing process, rather than a chore that was completed prior to an inspection or during holidays. Leaders and stakeholders began to keep a close eye on workload levels and timescales, and it was found to be very useful for the induction of new staff.



Pilot Overview and Results

In January 2007, all 35 schools received a two hour introductory session to *schoolcentre.net*, a half-day hands-on training session for the leadership team, a further half-day 'surgery' of support, weekly newsletters from Granada Learning and access to help desk support. The pilot concluded in March with a well attended half-day evaluation session. Based on the pilot's success, the authority is now looking to support further groups of schools in the implementation *schoolcentre.net* in the coming months.

Feedback from the pilot schools

"For me, schoolcentre.net is a way of ensuring that strategic school development is an organic process - your plans can grow and change as the priorities for your school change. There is a certain transparency about the plans - by allowing access for stakeholders that need to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of them.

By its very nature, schoolcentre.net holds staff accountable for completing tasks which contribute to the development of the school. The colour coding system for actions which are planned, complete or overdue is a very powerful tool!"

Lynette Duggleby, Headteacher, Pickering Infants

"schoolcentre.net has helped streamline our communication processes at Springhead School, allowing staff access to the latest version of all our paperwork whether working at home or at school. It is an extremely efficient system to ensure school self-evaluation is directly linked to school development, and vice versa."

Debbie Wilson, Headteacher, Springhead Special School

"The schoolcentre.net team has worked very closely with the school in helping us to establish the system so that it really suits our needs. The integrated working provided by the software means that we can move our monitoring, tracking and evaluation work to a new level.

It has been a real pleasure to work with the staff at schoolcentre.net, they are always helpful and willing to support the development of your schoolcentre.net area. In addition, the help desk is superb. The staff are friendly, understanding and sort out any problems quickly and efficiently."

Paul Eckersley, Headteacher, Selby High School

"schoolcentre.net is an interesting piece of software, which has changed the way we plan using our School Development Plan. Instead of a once a year event, it is now much more of an ongoing process. schoolcentre.net has made information more available to the school community."

Alistair Forsythe, Headteacher, Whitby Westcliffe Primary School

The pilot schools

School name

Western Primary
Pannal CP School
Manor Infant School, Knaresborough
Castle CE Junior School
Oatlands Community Infant School
Oatlands Community Junior School
Richard Thornton's CE Primary School
Rossett Acre Primary School
Parish CE Primary School
Embsay CE Primary School
The Forest School
West Cliff Primary School
Pickering Community Infant and Nursery School
Hensall CP School
Malton CP School
Kirkbymoorside CP School
Helmsley CP school
Kellington Primary School,
Kirk Smeaton CE Primary School
Friarage CP School
Springhead School
Roseberry CP school
Kirkby & Great Broughton CE Primary School
Stakesby CP School
Boroughbridge Primary school
Kirby Hill CE Primary School
Easingwold CP School
Richmond Methodist Primary School
Hipswell CE Primary School
Sowerby CP School
Mowbray School
Bedale High School
Selby High
Brayton College
George Pinder Community College

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More Information

If you would like more information on *schoolcentre.net* or are interested in organising an on-site presentation at your school, please contact us on 0845 602 1937.

Alternatively, you can send an email to schoolcentre@granadalearning.com