

Ensuring quality educational provision with schoolcentre.net



case study

New Rush Hall School is an outstanding special school located in the London Borough of Redbridge. Committed to the belief that every child has a right to achieve, regardless of their educational, social or emotional ability, the school uses *schoolcentre.net* to help simplify the school improvement process. The system is also central to Headteacher John d'Abbro OBE's role in managing the Pan-London Back on Track Project, which aims to ensure the quality of educational provision for vulnerable children across the whole region.

New Rush Hall School is attended by 72 five to 16-year-olds who have social, emotional and behavioural difficulties that prevent them from learning and socialising in mainstream schools. The school is part of the New Rush Hall Group, which also comprises a behaviour support outreach team, three pupil referral units, an adolescent psychiatric unit and an Early Years setting.

The leadership team and staff at New Rush Hall place great emphasis on ensuring the educational and pastoral support offered to pupils meets their changing needs. Their efforts were recognised in January 2008, when the school was awarded a grade of 'outstanding' by Ofsted inspectors.

Headteacher John d'Abbro introduced *schoolcentre.net*, The Skills Factory's online self-evaluation service, in 2007 to make it easier for the leadership team, teachers and specialist practitioners to work together in the drive for whole-school improvement.

John d'Abbro says, "Using *schoolcentre.net* has made managing the New Rush Hall Group Development Plan much easier. It allows us to store copies of the school Self Evaluation Form and development plan online, rather than in paper format, as was previously the case. This means

that these important documents can be easily updated, from inside or outside school, and the most current versions are instantly available to those that need them."

schoolcentre.net enables staff with different areas of curriculum responsibility to log on and check what progress has been made towards implementing a new behaviour management strategy or an initiative designed to raise pupils' attainment in literacy, for example. Teachers can add their own notes online and relevant documentation or images can be attached to provide evidence of the effectiveness of the school's provision as part of an Ofsted inspection. Schools also have the option to upload the online version of the SEF directly on to Ofsted's website.

"The system is easy to use and it has been essential in helping us to manage the strategic direction of not only the school, but the group as a whole."

One of the advantages John d'Abbro has found in using *schoolcentre.net* is that it provides him with a clear picture of which actions have been completed and where further work needs to be done to ensure progress towards school improvement goals. "The system is easy to use and it has been essential in helping us to manage the strategic direction of not only the school, but the group as a whole. This is why *schoolcentre.net* was the natural choice when I was looking for a project management tool to support my role as chairperson of the Pan-London Back on Track Project."

case study

Following the publication of recommendations highlighted in Sir Alan Steer's Back on Track report in May 2008, the London councils secured Government funding for the Pan-London Pupil Referral Unit Improvement Project. The project is a multi-agency initiative designed to improve the quality of alternative educational provision for children and young people in the area.

Currently in its second year, one of the objectives of the project is to ensure the development of a curriculum model designed to be implemented in all the region's pupil referral units. This will help ensure a high standard of teaching is available to a child, wherever they access their learning.

The project team also wants to enable providers of alternative education to share information and examples of best practice easily across settings to help raise pupils' achievement. In addition, plans are in place to introduce a system of restorative approaches to justice when tackling issues such as non-

attendance and inappropriate behaviour. This approach focuses on repairing relationships over and above the need for assigning blame and dispensing punishment. There will also be an emphasis on strengthening safety in schools and encouraging community cohesion.

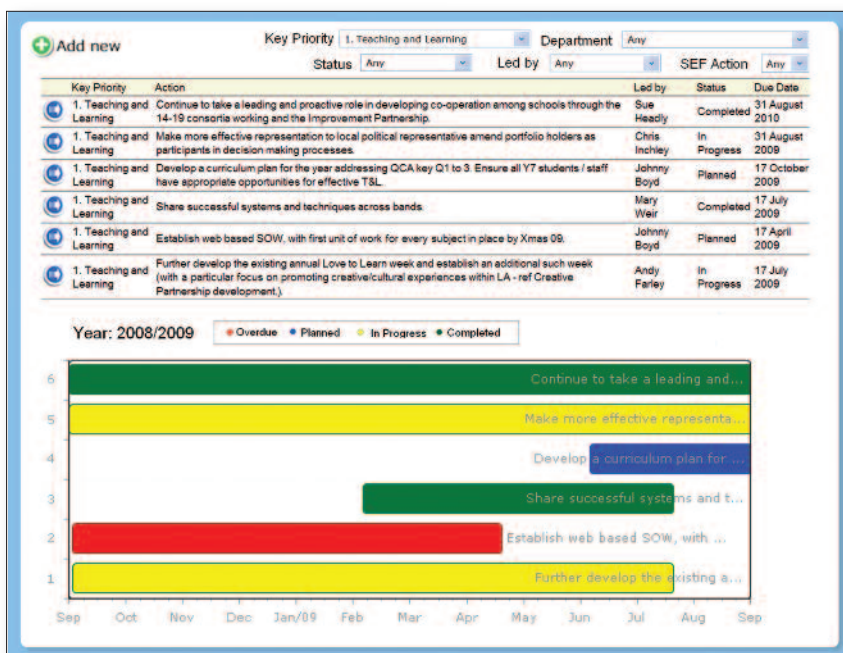
"Drawing on my experience of working with *schoolcentre.net* within my school, I was convinced that the system would provide the ideal solution for managing a project of this size and complexity. It allows me to keep track of the many work streams taking place as the project evolves and highlights areas where progress is perhaps not being made as quickly as we would expect," says John d'Abbro.

"Having an online tool offers all those involved in the project the flexibility to view documents, such as minutes of meetings and actions flagged for completion, from wherever they are working. Its simplicity also meant that there was minimal requirement for training, saving time and money for the team."

Using *schoolcentre.net*, individual folders can be stored online, in one place, containing information and documentation relating to the different aspects of the project. This makes managing workloads and checking progress against deadlines a simple task. Individuals from the various organisations involved can log on and find the documents relating to their own areas of responsibility easily, helping them to work effectively and efficiently to achieve their objectives.

The New Rush Hall Group is a leader in the provision of alternative care for challenging and vulnerable children. The success of the Pan-London project, which is scheduled to be completed by September 2012, will help transform educational opportunities and outcomes for vulnerable children across the region.

"By using *schoolcentre.net* to manage the Pan-London project, I spend less time in administration and more time talking to the people I need to from the many different agencies involved. This is vital to ensuring children and young people across London, who may be struggling with educational or behavioural issues, get the critical support they need to achieve and grow, regardless of where they live."



- Benefits:**
- Provides direct links between SEF and School Improvement Plan
 - Anytime-anywhere access by all staff and entire school community
 - Enables all stakeholders to contribute to effective planning
 - Fully customisable
 - Embeds Every Child Matters into the planning process
 - Easy attachment of evidence

Actions listed in the School Improvement Plan with a visual timeline

contact

For more information about schoolcentre.net:

Telephone: 0845 602 1937 (select option 4) Web: www.skillsfactory.co.uk Email: info@schoolcentre.net