**2016-17 Secondary Probationer Practitioner Enquiry Project**

Probationer Evaluation and Feedback Summary

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| **Questions** | Summary of responses from 31 completed evaluation forms | Comments |
| **Question 1:** It was recommended that you used one policy and two pieces of professional reading to support your Practitioner Enquiry. Was the amount of professional reading enough to support your Practitioner Enquiry? More or less literature needed?  | **Yes or reasonable - 22 probationer teachers** **No – 1****Need to read more, or did read more - 11****Depends on enquiry topic - 5** | Pointed in right direction, Although read more, space to explore but not intimidatingReading was enough, but difficult to make links to policy docsHard not to use multiple policies – perhaps more policy documentation would be relevant as means of justifying the enquiry issueNeed to read more for thorough research & to substantiate thinkingDepending on nature of enquiry could choose to do more if required Literature in my area quite limited and out of date, but found plenty, so no problemMore direction could have been provided in terms of how to access academic literature |
| **Question 2:** How difficult/easy was it to access the professional reading for your Practitioner Enquiry?Was it helpful having access to the library services and the ICT Suite?  | **Very Easy – 16****Fairly easy – 9****Mixed or inconclusive comments - 2** **Difficult – 4**6 **probationer teachers commented on how useful** LSS & ICT input was**7 didn’t use this access at all** | Used lots from UniversityDifficult at first because of lack of access to University libraryJournal access would be helpful, not easy to accessChallenging but LSS useful \*GTCS website most helpfulGoogle Scholar usefulCarol Sargent at FHS very helpful – lots of resources to useWould rather do this in own time or in school Found sources onlineMost relevant book came from library, LSS shutting down, difficult to find booksTime-consuming search – perhaps a list of suggested literature for different topics would be helpful? |
| **Question 3:** What are your thoughts on having an appointed mentor? | **28 probationer teachers found their mentors useful, very useful or left comments on how their mentor supported them in a positive way****The remaining probationer teachers, left comment, wanted more communication or were unsure of the level of support they received** | Really useful contact, reassurance, encouragement, sharing ideas, very helpful, full of great ideas & advice, valuable insight, keeping me on track, played an important roleUseful to have another perspectiveEspecially in early stages when forming questionInvaluable – drop in sessions really helpMore communication & links to that person would be betterHelpful to have preliminary point of contactGreat, helpful, but not intrusiveI felt this was helpful but I wasn’t too sure the level of support I had access to |
| **Question 4:** Describe any improvements to your **classroom practice** which you feel are a result of your Practitioner Enquiry project? | **4 stated that they were more reflective or critical about classroom practice****3 broadened my teaching or implemented new strategies****3 focused on behaviour management or improved classroom ethos****2 noticed impact on attainment****2 observed impact on the ethos and life of their school/HWB****Others observed impact on more specific professional knowledge and skills** | Constantly reflecting on practice and work hard to get pupil feedback\*\*\*More confident in using new pedagogies, more likely to try new things \* I have broadened my teachingImplemented new strategiesMore positive learning environment – better understanding of why behavioural issues arise & how to differentiate materialsImproved behaviour & engagement Really getting to know how to engage & interpret challenging pupilsUse of praise – project was also a bonding experience with classesMore aware of best ways to meet the needs of learners – approach to questioning has changed, and impact seen with pupilsEquity, improved literacyHeightened engagement, improved literacy attainment & increased positive relationshipsBetter understanding of value of extra-curricular activities and how this impacts on subject & whole school engagementSet up a lunch time club which provide a safe space for learners to come toMore aware of need to develop skills for LLWUse of different strategies adaptable from other subjectsMethodical application of new strategies rather than straight to it without evidential basisI encourage the use of Glow & keep it up to dateConstruction of peer feedback is more meaningful & related to success criteriaMore confident in using peer assessmentOverall units of work & planning & preparation of teaching and learningGreater knowledge of relevant areas of practice |
| **Question 5**: How has the Practitioner Enquiry process impacted on your **wider practice**? | **29 probationer teachers gave specific details of impact****8 said they were more reflective practitioners** and had improved their critical thinking about their practice **9 gained new teaching strategies** or made links with colleagues across the school**4 gained profound realisations about their pedagogy****The remainder described other positive impact**  | Learned a lot from others’ enquiries, encouraged to continue with reflective practice - Yes, huge impact More reflective of pedagogy – made me think moreBetter able to think critically about making positive impact on attainment & achievementMore consistent approach to critical thinking Fits with personal priorities Challenged me to think about wider practice & trying new thingsHow I approach IDL initiatives Able to share practice with wider schoolWill now liaise with colleagues in other departments to find out how they are doing similar thingsMore aware of other strategies and ideas – changed teaching strategiesGreater knowledge of relevant aspects & allowed for useful liaison with colleagues in other departmentsAllowed me to see how I can develop STEM across wider school communityRecognised the need to be explicit about skills Evaluating impact wasn’t previously considered Motivation to continue to develop practiceI am aware that I am a teacher, not just a subject teacher, and pupils in deprivation might not be deprived, whereas pupils not in financial deprivation could be.Substantiated my findings into real life practiceBroadened and deepened my understanding of educational policy and concepts of family learning and homework \*Because of this, I have been asked to re-write a major part of the S2 curriculum – my project became influential throughout the school as included different subjects |
| **Question 6:** Share your thoughts on how the Practitioner Enquiry project was delivered – timing, number of sessions etc.  | **12 - timing was ideal****7 - badly timed****7 - should be done earlier in the year because it clashed with a range of other tasks or was a “busy term”****2 wanted more time****1 wanted more resources and examples****2 people left no comment** | Idea Appropriate Well-structured, enough time, clear, helpfulDelivered effectively Drop in sessions usefulAnother session dedicated to research would have been usefulNeeds to be done earlier to avoid clash with interview prep - better to have done it before Christmas Timing difficult - increased workload & pressure, needed more timeOther links to sessions and more support could be beneficial – see more examplesAmple time, but Feb not best timing – earlier betterInformative and worthwhileTiming clashed with other things – getting pupil ready for prelim, parents’ evening, etc – there is never a good time though |
| Any other general comments?  | **13 probationer teachers left no comment****15 left positive comments****Another positive comment suggests the need to increase awareness of the value of the experience****3 left negative comments – 2 of these related to the previous question on timing****The other requests greater clarification about project expectations** | Worthwhile experience Useful practiceReally useful – valuable to hear other projects Prompted me to implement something I might not have otherwise doneDaunting at first but very worthwhileDefinitely found this more helpful, and less intimidating that I thought I wouldI enjoyed this project Loved the presentationIt was a useful and interesting task. It was great to hear what other people did.Think you need to do a better PR job & emphasise how useful probationers find the process. It’s not just another hoop to jump through!Clearer expectations regarding presentation format |