

Queensmead Primary Academy - COE Portfolio 2nd Reaccreditation Feedback

Many thanks for your recent submission in relation to being reaccredited with Centre of Excellence for a 2nd time. The portfolio of evidence has been assessed in relation to the criteria outlined within the **Continuing Excellence Matrix**. Please find outlined below your feedback including suggestions for ongoing development.

Leadership and Management

Your school continues to provide strong leadership and direction for financial education (FE), as captured in your recent SEF which provides a clear narrative of the developments and achievements over past few years linked to FE, Careers and Enterprise (FCE) Education. This, alongside the continuing role that your financial champion takes to lead and manage your whole school approach to financial education, shows that FCE education remains a strategic priority for your school. As you move forward, including FE, Careers and Enterprise in your SEF and/or SIP will ensure that the programme continues to be monitored strategically, including by the Governing Body.

Your comprehensive vision for Financial Education encapsulates your commitment to ensure that all your pupils are at the heart of the financial education programme, ensuring that they can leave Queensmead with high aspirations, high levels of self-belief, using their knowledge, skills and confidence to make informed and independent financial decisions in preparation for their lives beyond school. This was praised in your recent Ofsted report (2024) which highlighted your innovative approaches to the development of life skills through financial education, careers, enterprise, social action and building cultural capital. They were particularly impressed with the opportunities for your pupils to make independent financial decisions through your Purple Pounds economy scheme and Eventerprise programme.

As a reaccredited Centre of Excellence for the second time, the strategic commitment for FE that you have secured through your strong leadership and management will support the continuing excellence of your FCE programme. Ensure to continue to update and engage key stakeholders across the school including your SLT, governors and all staff.

Teaching and Learning

It is clear that you have worked hard over the last few years to secure a comprehensive, well sequenced and engaging FCE curriculum, which now covers 100% of the Primary Financial Planning Framework and spans from Early years to Y6. Your planning in PSHE, Careers and Maths clearly sets out a spiral development of money management skills and financial capabilities. This learning is further enhanced by your innovative enterprising and careers programme, including Purple Pounds and Eventerprise, through which your pupils can apply the breadth of knowledge and skills they have learned to make informed choices in real money and careers related situations.

You have presented a wealth of examples of pupils' work, showcasing a varied range of learning across the school. Pupil feedback from various learning sessions, including with external organisations, has helped to capture a high level of engagement and understanding.

It is fantastic to see that many of your pupils have now worked through the entire learning programme from their time with you in early years through to Y6, spanning the full Young Enterprise Financial Planning Framework. With all your pupils now working through your whole school FE, careers and enterprising programme, you will continue to realise your vision for all pupils to gain and apply a wide range of money management and financial capability skills in preparation for their future lives.

As you move forward, it will be really interesting to follow how your FCE curriculum programme continues to grow, including the use of any new resources and external partners, in response to the ever-changing needs of your pupils and local community as and when new issues arise. All future engagement with partners should continue to be fully evaluated to ensure these enrichment opportunities continue to offer relevant and good quality learning opportunities as part of your planned programme.

Pupil Involvement and Assessment

As part of your ongoing development of FCE, you have regularly gathered feedback from pupils to monitor pupil progress in relation to their developing learning, independent money related behaviours and how they apply these to the enterprising work that they do. A recent review of the Purple Pounds initiative with pupils, for example, enabled you to identify changes needed to run the scheme more effectively, including the need to increase staff involvement in the training and supervision of the pupils in various roles and the introduction of apprentice roles. It was refreshing to see the high priority placed on pupil feedback to develop key sections of this most recent accreditation portfolio.

Further to this, it was really positive to see pupil work scrutiny and learning walks in FCE built into your whole school monitoring and evaluation (M&E) schedule. Going forward, continue to embed FE activities into this rota of M&E activities, in particular using summaries of key findings from pupils and staff to highlight achievements, identify outcomes and plan for relevant next steps in the ongoing development of your FE programme.

Staff Development

Your FC has continued to develop and extend their own knowledge and skills in leading your whole school FE programme, whilst providing training and development to staff within the school, including all new staff as part of their induction and through 1:1 mentoring. The one day planning and development sessions have been particularly effective in supporting all staff to use new, current and up to date resources, with increased knowledge, skills and confidence to teach FCE to maintain your excellent provision and enhance outcomes for all your children on an ongoing basis.

The FC's annual attendance at the YE national conference, alongside their engagement with the Young Enterprise national 'Teacher Advisory Group', and the delivery of a YE skills sharing webinar for other schools on the Centres of Excellence programme, demonstrates their high commitment to keeping abreast of, and engaging with, latest developments in FE, careers and enterprising education.

The ongoing emphasis on the professional development of your FC will continue to strengthen not only their own knowledge, understanding, skills and confidence in FCE, but will ensure that all developments are shared and cascaded out to a wide range of stakeholders, including staff in your own school, and school communities beyond.

Sharing Financial Education

Your sharing within and beyond your school community is exemplary.

We are extremely impressed with the ways in which you continue to share your FE, Careers and Enterprise programme with other schools and partners, locally and nationally. Your appearances on national television to showcase the Financial Education, Purple Pounds and Eventerprise initiatives, presentations at national conferences, a published case study informing national guidance for applied learning, and delivery of a national 'Skills Sharing' webinar for Young Enterprise, provide excellent evidence of the dynamic ways in which you share your excellent practice.

We wait with excited anticipation to see what will be shared next.