



Specialist Leader of Education



Name:	Chris Holding
School:	Wynstream Community Primary School
Position	Year 6 Teacher / Curriculum Coordinator
Phase:	Primary
Specialism:	Curriculum Leadership

About Chris

I am currently a Year 6 teacher and Curriculum Coordinator at Wynstream. I have been in post since September 2016 and in this time I have supported staff in implementing a new approach to learning in the foundation subjects. I have created a number of skills expectations checklists to help support teachers in planning and delivering age-appropriate objectives to their pupils. I have also been involved in re-designing the school's curriculum statement and updating the curriculum provision on the school's website.

Prior to joining Wynstream, I spent 8 years working as Year 6 teacher and Upper Key Stage 2 Leader at Pilton Bluecoat Junior School in North Devon - with a particular responsibility for leading foundation subjects and developing the school's creative curriculum approach. Through my role on the Senior Leadership Team, I was given the opportunity to lead the development of a new whole-school curriculum. I led a new, holistic approach to learning at the school that saw our term's work set around a 'Big Question' in each year group.

This enquiry-based learning, alongside the exploitation of opportunities to work outside of the classroom, enabled the children to really immerse themselves in their learning and provided them with concrete, memorable experiences. I regularly organised visits, trips and INSET days to inspire children, staff and parents to really engage in topics and maximise the impact they had across the whole school. I led staff meetings and have carried out presentations to trustees / governors. I created well-defined skill and knowledge ladders for Geography and History, and implemented new planning formats. The changes I oversaw resulted in teachers and parents reporting an increase in pupil engagement in topic-based school work and resulted in an increase in cross-curricular work across a variety of subjects, particularly literacy.

The role of the SLE

SLEs are outstanding middle and senior leaders and have a successful track record of school improvement. SLEs support leaders in other schools. They have excellent interpersonal skills, are able to work sensitively and collaboratively with others and have a commitment to outreach work. They understand what outstanding leadership practice in their area of specialism looks like and can help other leaders to achieve it in their own context.

The SLE role is about developing other middle and senior leaders so that they have the skills to lead their own teams and improve practice in their own schools. This may be done through one-to-one peer coaching or facilitated group support and could involve a variety of activities, such as data analysis, coaching or joint action planning.

For more information or to get into contact with an SLE please call: 01392 927171