



Specialist Leader of Education

Name: Sarah Butler

School: Haytor View Nursery and Primary School

Position: Early Years Leader

Phase: Primary

Specialism: Early Years

About Sarah

I am currently the Early Years Leader at Haytor View Primary School in Newton Abbot. I have a wealth of experience having worked and led teams in the Foundation Stage for over 20 years. I have worked in various authorities in London, Dorset, Devon and Torbay. I have been an SLE for Torbay Teaching Alliance since 2011 and moved to Exeter Consortium group 2016. I was the Early Years lead practitioner and Early Years Moderator across Torbay for four years. I have also been involved in numerous early years research projects across the South West linked to Effective Early Years practice, parental involvement and the development of creative thinking in the Early Years.

Specialist area

- EYFS subject leadership.
- Raising standards of teaching and learning opportunities within EYFS.
- Raising awareness of Effective learning, adult engagement and child involvement.
- Tracking pupil progress and monitoring skill levels across EYFS.
- Curriculum design and creativity within EYFS.

Overview of support to schools

As a SLE leader, I have worked with a range of schools, nurseries and attached preschools in Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Torbay. My specific area of expertise is supporting teams to notice and understand how to develop high levels of engagement and involvement in children's learning and shared sustained thinking. I have worked closely with school leadership teams to help the leaders to understand how to develop an effective environment, which will help to successfully enrich children's learning. I have also supported settings in knowing how to incorporating planning, assessment and tracking systems across nursery / Foundation Stage provisions to ensure consistency for all children. My experience from working in a wide range of schools has given me the expertise and knowledge of how to develop strategies in order to raise results sometimes in challenging circumstances.

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Recent examples of work with other schools

Data analysis – setting up data tracking systems to facilitate effective intervention

Leading half day and full day seminars and workshops on a variety of different themes including

- Use of Meta language for staff in Foundation Stage
- Making learning visible, leading self reflection to show pupil voice (Documentation)
- Effective Early Learning : Adult engagement and Child Involvement Levels
- Understanding Shared Sustained Thinking
- Enhancing the profile of creative thinking within curriculum planning
- Early Years Foundation Stage Assessment
- Curriculum Development

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