

## Can inclusive schools be effective in raising attainment?

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**SCHOOL** → **Sunnyside Primary School, Clackmannanshire**  
**FOCUS** → **'Thinking Through Philosophy'**

### *Initiatives or projects in place that illustrate how an inclusive school can be effective in raising attainment*

- ✓ Besides individual schools around Britain, the 'Thinking through Philosophy' programme is being used by 80 teachers in Clackmannanshire and 12 in Nottinghamshire.
- ✓ Evidence from the formal evaluation of the pilot project shows significant improvements in children's behaviour related to learning (eg. using open-ended questions, speaking more often in discussion).
- ✓ Headteachers and teachers (+ pupils) report positive changes in personal behaviour and school class ethos.

### *How these initiatives are being monitored and evaluated*

#### **Informally**

Collecting of anecdotal evidence from HT, teachers and pupils.

#### **Formally**

Through research project being undertaken by a Senior Psychologist, in conjunction with Dundee University.

### *What are some of the biggest challenges faced by teachers and young people or members of your organisation, in implementing the initiatives or projects?*

It includes teacher development as well as pupil development and therefore, for best results, some INSET training is required. Convincing teachers of the importance of the work, given the pressures on the curriculum at present.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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### ***What has worked well?***

- ✓ The varied menu of stimuli contained in the programme.
- ✓ Supporting teachers with school visits.
- ✓ The fully-planned, prescriptive nature of the programme.
- ✓ Trialling sections of the programme for teacher feedback.

### ***What did not work & lessons learned?***

Some elements of the programme need greater explanation at the INSET time.

### ***Future plans?***

- ✓ All classes P4-7 in Clackmannanshire will be involved next session 03/04. Similar roll-out in Nottinghamshire.
- ✓ Hopefully, other Scottish Authorities will begin 'pilot' work.
- ✓ INSET offered to other schools/LEA's.

### ***Any materials the school is willing to share***

#### **Reference**

'Thinking Through Philosophy' Books 2,3, + 4 published by Education Printing Services Ltd.



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