

Quality Mark Report

Quality Recognition Scrutineers, meeting took place on 22nd September 2017:

Sandra Hiatt – Independent Educational Expert

Gosia McKane – NRCSE Regional Development Manager (North)

Observational visit performed on 12th March 2017 by:

Andre Olchowski, Volunteer mentor, Liverpool

Name of Supplementary School:
Liverpool Ferdowsi School

Membership No.:
NRC1514

Introduction

Liverpool Ferdowsi Farsi School is a division of The Iranian Cultural Society of Liverpool. The school was initially opened in 2006 by volunteers to teach Farsi language and Iranian culture to the second generation of Iranian and Farsi speaker immigrants. The activity turned into a more official form and branded as the Ferdowsi Farsi School following the formation of ICSL in 2009 and has ever since made major progress in improving and expanding its service and attracting Iranian families. The school moved to its new location (Central Youth Club on 62 Walker St., Liverpool) in September 2009, which offers sufficient space for most of our activities including rooms for classes, sports facilities, playground and common area for socialisation. The school now has 30 children attending and seven teachers.

Key recommendations from observation and recognition meeting

- Develop IT provision
- You have the staff capacity to recruit more children
- If the school expands, identifying new premises, preferable at a local primary school

Please list any outstanding achievements:

- The range of curriculum activities including languages class, drama, dance, music, art and sports
- Photographs were very helpful evidence
- Regular meetings with parents with examples of power point presentations
- Records and minutes of meetings
- Celebrating the achievements in many different ways
- References to teaching standards

Detail of findings overall from observation and recognition meeting

1. Create an effective learning environment

The questionnaire for parents was thoroughly designed with clear and structured questions. The student and teacher induction checklist was a good evidence. Overall the evidence provided showed that there is good practice and a well organised school. There was an annual calendar of activities and timetable for Sunday school activities. The school provided supervision rota for the breaks. There were several power point presentations included regarding the school arrangements and it was confirmed during the question time that schools deliver them to parents to understand how the school is being run.

2. Teach effectively

Evidence showed that there are clear programmes of study and that sessions are well planned. There are daily and overall objectives set for the sessions. Reference to the Department of Education Teacher Standards (2012) were included in the file indicating attention to standard of teaching and learning equivalent to mainstream schools. Evidence of marked work, exercise books and timetables all supported achievement of this criterion. There was evidence of peer teacher lesson observations. The school offers preparation for GCSE in Persian.

3. Record progress and achievement

Records of attendance are consistent and appropriate. Evidence of teaching and learning resources were included in the file with helpful photographs of events celebrating children's achievements. There were samples of exam papers, reports on progress and copies of end of the year certificates. The school recognises not only educational achievements but as well there are reports on progress, attendance and behaviour.

4. Choose the right resources

A range of relevant evidence was provided including the school website, examples of text books and a wide range of curricula opportunities such as drawing competition, dance classes, drama, etc.

5. Plan and develop your organization

Minutes of meetings were of very good quality and records of what was discussed and ongoing work of the school. Evidence of funding applications and successful awards further supported this section. During the questions time the representatives confirmed that the management Committee meets regularly every term and more often if required.

6. Select and support staff and volunteers

A particularly thorough and strong section with a range of relevant documents. Risk assessment was particularly noteworthy. The evidence included presentation on Equality Policy explaining types of discrimination, monitoring and grievances.

7. Make sure children are safe

Risk assessment was particularly noteworthy. Evidence of off-site and in school activities is rigorously covered and evidenced in the file. There was an example of one of power point presentations explaining responsibilities of the school and staff.

8. Manage finances

Records of financial policy, income and expenditure, employer's liability and minutes of finance meetings gave strong evidence for this section.