

Quality Mark Report

Quality Recognition Meeting took place on 11th June 2018, attended by following scrutineers:

Louise Browning – Headteacher Norbury School - educational expert

Pascale Vassie – NRCSE Executive Director – governance expert

Observational visits performed on 19th May, 6th and 9th June 2018 by:

Joy Collins – Director Securing Success and Harrow quality assurance mentor

Name of Supplementary School:

Valar Tamil Nilayam

Membership No.:

NRC1725

Introduction

Valar Tamil Nilayam was established in 2014 and registered as a company in 2016. Currently it has 90 students on roll and 15 volunteer staff members.

Each Saturday the children enjoy various activities in the school – learning the Tamil language and Fine Arts as well as maths and English study support. Music lessons include violin, miruthangam, veena and Carnatic vocal class. Bharata Natyam dance is taught and the children perform at annual celebrations of their achievement.

Language examinations take place in June each year and on the basis of the results of the students, promotion is done to the next class.

‘Our aim at VTM is to impart knowledge of the Tamil language and to foster a love for Tamil culture in our children.’

Key recommendations from observation and recognition meeting

- The syllabus and resources are adopted from Sri Lanka. You could develop this for British Tamil children by looking at the different ways you can teach content other than books and CDs to enable learning at your school to be fun and engaging for all learners regardless of their abilities and home exposure to the language.
- The pupils have responded positively to evaluation questionnaires. Now that you have asked the pupils to give their suggestions about the school it would be good for the management committee to plan how you can respond to these, eg. introduce more outdoor activities and a more varied programme.
- Further develop the assessment of pupils’ progress through paired and group work to practice new vocabulary orally and through written items. This would engage all the pupils more actively.

Please list any outstanding achievements:

- The ethos of the school is strong and the purpose of what you want to achieve is clear and an enrichment of music and more academic studies.
- Excellent commitment from community members to the management of the school, the teaching and the annual celebration. It is commendable that your staff are all volunteers and that the community willing gives money to ensure the running of the school.

Detail of findings overall from observation and recognition meeting

1. Create an effective learning environment

The welcome pack for parents is clear with promotion of the school's ethos and objectives on website and publicity documents. VTM rents 6 classrooms in a secondary school and the classrooms are light, spacious and adequate. The staffing structure ensures that the environment is safe and effective. There is a positive behaviour strategy.

2. Teach effectively

Relationships between staff and children are good with small groups of maximum 10 learners and staff familiar with curriculum expectations. The school does not have access to interactive whiteboards or internet. Children are enthusiastic about learning their mother tongue. There are clear expectations of teachers with centrally set lesson plans incorporating simple records of learning. Teachers have asked for a wider variety of resources and the management committee is looking to acquire these.

3. Record progress and achievement

The children are tested each term following the Tamil curriculum. In order to progress to the next level children must achieve externally moderated exams. Dance and music are also examined centrally.

4. Choose the right resources

The language classes are focused on text books recommended by the Tamil Federation. The director was part of the team developing these text books and has used them in Germany as well as in other Tamil school in Greater London. Music, dance and poetry all form part of the children's learning of language and culture.

5. Plan and develop your organization

Considerable community engagement and strong management committee with individuals in identified roles: Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Treasurer, Chair who is also the Headteacher. Parents have a room to meet socially separate from the teaching area and this clearly contributes to planning of events, celebrations, etc. Good collaboration with other Persian schools.

6. Select and support staff and volunteers

The director was headteacher of a Tamil school in Sri Lanka for 8 years and then in Germany and now in Harrow. All staff are volunteers. There is a good staff handbook and guidance on teaching is included. Staff meetings take place monthly and staff are encouraged to participate in training eg. 5 staff completed the 'assessment for learning' training at Museum of London in March 2018.

7. Make sure children are safe

Designated Safeguarding Officers have attended Harrow LSCB training and cascade information to all staff at team meetings. The school has a signing-in book and the premises have good security and fire procedures. There is a termly fire drill in liaison with the site supervisor. Two staff are trained in first aid.

8. Manage finances – advanced

VTN has been operating for four years, the management committee are addressing the need to increase funds and met shortfall themselves. Cultural events are used to raise funds from parents and wider community. A realistic budget has been set for 2018/19.