

Quality Mark Report

Quality Recognition Meeting took place on 4th March 2020, attended by following scrutineers:

Joy Collins – Securing Success, Educational Expert

Pascale Vassie – NRCSE, Governance Expert

Observational visits performed on 1 February 2020 by:

Dr Mon Partovi – Quality Development Adviser

Name of Supplementary School:

Rustam School

Membership No.:

NRC0636

Introduction

With 39 years of experience teaching Persian Rustam is not just a language school, in their own words, 'we are a community that celebrates our students' Anglo-Persian identities, helps them to achieve GCSE and A Level Persian qualification as well as to make friends for life.' The school has 275 pupils on roll and operates every Saturday from Fortismere School, London borough of Haringey.

At Rustam School, children are offered the opportunity for success, recognition, and to be valued outside of mainstream activities. Pupils learn tolerance and respect for others, to celebrate their own diversity and contribute to society as a whole. 'Our values sit at the heart of all we do and form the foundation of our strong and diverse community. Pupils carry these values with them beyond the classroom and into their futures.'

Expert and committed staff celebrate and focus on the individual learning needs of students. Rustam mirrors current educational principles, paying attention to Intent, Implementation and Impact of a bespoke curriculum and learning objectives, having an eye on pupils' progression from aged 3 to gaining national GSCE and 'A' Level qualifications.

Provision is supported through a wide range of relevant resources, techniques, educational visits and guest speakers. Rustam provides an extensive library and students are encouraged to borrow and take home books, or join the librarian for storytelling sessions as part of a long tradition. The school has researched and written their own text books, firmly linked to the national curriculum and now publish and sell to Persian supplementary schools globally.

Key recommendations from observation and recognition meeting

- Rustam is an outstanding example of best practice in supplementary education, could you develop your sharing of best practice across the community-led sector?
- Consider further how resources and activities can reflect that the children live in the UK and reinforce 'British' values.
- After many years in Barnet and then Camden you have again managed the transition to a new site and borough. Continue to engage with the senior leadership team of Fortismere School and explore the possibilities of partnership work with the school bring an awareness of Iranian culture and language to the wider community.

Please list any outstanding achievements:

- Rustam's graded publications provide core texts, these are supplemented by an excellent resource, the Dr. Saeed Goodarznia Library. This library staffed by a knowledgeable and dedicated librarian who runs group storytelling for the younger pupils and is available throughout the afternoon to listen to children's opinions, support them to choose appropriate books that they will enjoy reading but that will also stretch their learning.
- Parents and community are actively engaged in the school through a PTA that facilitates displays, food and community crafts in the large entrance lobby to the school. Since many of the parents accompany their children from a distance and spend the afternoon on site this is also important to ensure the learning environment is safe and appropriate.
- Rustam delivers outstanding provision and has achieved Advance on all eight standards.

Detail of findings overall from observation and recognition meeting

1. Create an effective learning environment - Advanced

The school operates in a mainstream school environment that is comfortable and appropriately furnished. Clear expectations of behavior are stated in the school brochure and understood by children, parents and staff. A student council 'Voice of Rustam pupils' meets the headteacher termly and there is clear evidence that suggestions and criticisms are acted on. The PTA develops cultural activities and extends pupils experiences through off-site visits, club activities as well as homework.

2. Teach effectively - Advanced

There are clear programmes of study. Sessions are well planned following the school's published textbooks and exam board requirements. The children are engaged creatively through games, varied resources, interactive and kinaesthetic activities and reading competitions. Expert EYFS teachers building strong foundations. Excellent exam results through to A level demonstrate strong learner engagement.

3. Record progress and achievement

Teachers assess and record each child's progress through regular marking with developmental comments. Reports to parents at Parent/Teacher meeting twice yearly demonstrate learning progress and performance. Special consideration for children with SEND.

4. Choose the right resources - Advanced

Rustams' graded publications provide core texts. These are supplemented by an extensive library of Persian language texts. Use of interactive whiteboards, video projection and school computers enhances teaching and learning. Crafts, drama, music and kinaesthetic activities support a range of teaching methods and abilities. Consider how resources can be developed further to reflect the children's experiences as British citizens of Iranian heritage.

5. Plan and develop your organization - Advanced

There is a management committee that consults parents and staff, and active PTA. The annual report and celebration events engage families and partner agencies and patrons. Good use of partnerships with museums and universities to extend programme, eg. Open Horizon careers day inspires children to reach their potential in HE; Mitra performance at MoL Power of Little Things Festival.

6. Select and support staff and volunteers – Advanced

Excellent application form, interview procedure and contract. Induction booklet and staff handbook give comprehensive and clear policies and procedures to be followed. 58 members of teaching staff with HT and deputy. Annual staff conferences, for own staff and other schools using Rustam text books and attendance on Teaching Skills course, Cambridge Uni – Persian language training. Two teachers have joined NRCSE creative teaching project.

7. Make sure children are safe - Advanced

Policies are well tailored for the school and staff are effectively trained in necessary procedures. Linked to Haringey SCB who have visited site. HT has L3 Safeguarding, 4 qualified 1st aiders. Fire wardens and in-house training for emergency evacuation. Excellent anti-bullying policy, school rules and pupils' code of behavior.

8. Manage finances - Advanced

Managers review income and expenditure, an annual budget is agreed and monitored throughout the year. The school is funded through fees, fundraising events, text book sales and grants. The PTA arrange events to raise funds for the school and for charity.

