

Quality Mark Report

Quality Recognition Meeting took place on 14 April 2020, attended by following scrutineers:

Chris Murray – CEO Brent Young Foundation, Educational Expert

Pascale Vassie – Exec Director NRCSE, Governance Expert

Observational visit performed 29th February 2020 by Dr Mon Partovi, NRCSE Quality Development Adviser

Name of Supplementary School:
Westside Young Leaders Academy

Membership No.:
NRC1127

Introduction

Westside Young Leaders Academy first started 8 years ago as a supplementary school in Brent, aimed at African Caribbean boys from 8 to 18 who attend inner-city schools and who are faced with adult challenges earlier in life than expected. WYLA is run with passion and dedication to 'bring out of the young people their leadership potential.' Recently, the directors decided to run sessions for girls as well and the girls' academy started in January 2020. Sixty five young people currently attend WYLA.

'We at The Westside Young Leaders Academy (WYLA) have a dedicated team who are passionate about producing successful men who understand they are born to be GREAT! We sincerely believe that EVERY young person matters and with the right support they can achieve and live their dreams.'

The Academy seeks to fulfil its vision through the following core components: the Saturday Academy; a holiday programme of team-building workshops, educational visits and residential; Mentoring Plus – a pool of professionals acting pro bono as mentors to encourage and stimulate pupils; Parent University – family support network; and service to the community.

Key recommendations from observation and recognition meeting

WYLA was established by its founding directors and has grown steadily due to their passion and dedication as well as a strong support team of mentors and parents giving their time voluntarily to support the WYLA vision. In the last year you have recruited a management committee and successfully obtained funds to expand. The transfer of accountability and governance to this MC is vital to build sustainability into the supplementary school.

Regular management meetings will help you to ensure that you monitor and evaluate progress and the use new funding effectively with maximum number of pupils.

Strong emphasis on pre-attendance discipline which may not be a useful tool to engage a new generation of learners.

Please list any outstanding achievements

- Really well organised and thoughtful school that is exploring with (not to) children and young people to enable them to reach their potential.
- Parents University and Mentoring Plus programmes are outstanding in their involvement of family and professionals as community mentors in the school.
- Overall really well managed school with a strong connection to the community it serves.

Detail of findings overall from observation and recognition meeting

1. Create an effective learning environment – Advanced

There was clear evidence of a sound and really well organised working environment. There was a clear set of expectations linked to appropriate and functional behaviour of the young people. Parents are invited to visit a Saturday session before enrolling their children. Westside has a strong ethos and expectation that parents engage in and show positive regard for their children in attendance.

2. Teach effectively – Advanced

Limited examples illustrated but without doubt, the school and the teachers know what children have completed previously and targets / milestones to achieve. Clear guidelines on what to teach illustrated within the curriculum and 12-step leadership programme of learning. Teachers know how to engage students creatively and there is wide range of additional activities to extend experience and build confidence

3. Record progress and achievement

Records of success and areas for development were illustrated. Simple but effective records shared of successful activities learnt. Class evaluation sheets are completed

4. Choose the right resources – Advanced

Teachers and learners utilised a wide choice of resources to stimulate learning and understanding of subject areas (maths English as well as humanities) A selection of well thought out resources linked to young peoples lived experiences as well as ambitious developmental growth. Good range of teaching styles and materials made available for learners, from a range of intercultural perspectives.

5. Plan and develop your organization

There is a relatively new management committee appointed by the directors that will meet termly. The founding directors/lead teachers ensure that the organisation is achieving its aims, works within the Education Act (2009) is financially secure. The growth of WYLA and the expansion of the offer to girls this year shows strong planning and development. Exploration of actions/steps for the school's continued growth should be explored

6. Select and support staff and volunteers – Advanced

Staff team and volunteers are recruited appropriately and given the basic support, supervision and guidance they need to do their jobs / roles safely. There is planned induction, regular support and training for all staff and volunteers. Staff meet before each session. Sound systems and structures in place with skilled teaching staff. However, the strategies required for good governance will improve the overall management of the school.

7. Make sure children are safe – Advanced

There is strong and really well organised induction, support and training for all staff and volunteers. The designated lead is linked in to the LSCB and attends annual meetings/training. Training is cascaded to all staff. Comprehensive registration form and excellent safeguarding procedures. Very strong area for the school. Up to date and advanced level policies and protocols in place.

8. Manage finances

The school has good budgetary systems in place, as well as effective management of financial protocols. Clear evidence of accountancy processes (income and expenditure) is an area for improvement. Records were limited with no control measures in place or thresholds.