

Welcome to the second edition of the OCN Eastern Region newsletter for schools.

With major 14-19 education reforms underway, we aim to explain and inform on a regular basis using real life examples and experiences.

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Foundation Learning

(formerly the Foundation Learning Tier)

One of the biggest reforms is Foundation Learning. The [Delivery Guidance for 2009-10](#) provides guidance to help providers and other stakeholders with Foundation Learning provision. It has been developed in response to feedback, especially from those involved in Foundation Learning piloting and developmental delivery.

In particular page three provides a good overview of the current definitions of Foundation Learning (FL).

The most recent [DCSF Letter: Implementation of FL Learning for 14-19 and national group](#) sets out an up to date implementation plan and defines the strategic role of Local Authorities (LAs). There is a key expectation that all areas will deliver some 14-19 FL provision by 2010/11.

The [Gateway 4 Guidance](#) also highlights clear links to Gateway 4 Diploma implementation which should be considered when planning FL provision. Planned FL provision should reflect individual starting points and intended learning destinations (e.g. Diplomas) or, where appropriate, supported employment or independent living. All LAs will deliver some FL for 14-19 year olds in 2010, then focus on increasing capacity, quality and access by bringing in all schools and other providers, to align with Diploma and Apprenticeships entitlements and Raising the Participation Age (RPA) milestones in 2013.

Finally, the latest FL catalogue, published in October, is available on the [QCDA website](#).



If you want to discuss Foundation Learning and what it means to your school, one of our Development Managers will be happy to meet you.

Just contact [OCN Eastern Region](#) to request a meeting.

Foundation Learning Exemplars document

When designing courses to meet the requirements of Foundation Learning, schools are confronted by a wide array of possibilities. OCN Eastern Region has published an Exemplars paper providing a range of courses to demonstrate the flexibility of the NOCN Skills Towards Enabling Progression (Step-UP) Qualifications in delivering Foundation Learning. For your copy of the paper please contact the OCN Eastern Region [marketing department](#).

City College Norwich: a case study

City College Norwich (CCN) has also planned new FL provision from September 2009 using the Step-UP qualifications. CCN has previously run a series of taster sessions for disaffected year 10 and 11 pupils to try to engage them in further learning. It has enjoyed success, with high retention rates, but has not necessarily addressed the needs of all learners or stretched them. It was only half a day a week and did not provide for learners who were above E3 level.

The concept for the new course is to have a structured programme at Entry 3 and Level 1 for disengaged Year 10 and Year 11 pupils, offering true personalised learning, formal qualifications and clear pathways for progression. The course will cover 5 vocational areas, Hairdressing, Sport and Leisure, Construction, Catering and Health and Social Care alongside the core work skills and life skills units. In the first instance it will be a one day a week course. More information can be found on the [City College Norwich](#) website.

Foundation Learning Champion

Norfolk Children's Services has appointed a Foundation Learning Champion for Norfolk. Sharon Money will survey existing provision for students working at Entry Level/Level 1 across the 14-19 sector, including LLDD and specialist provision for other vulnerable groups' draw together good practice of programmes of study that might be developed into formalised FL offerings and work with relevant partners to propose replicable models for the different "progression programmes".

She will also give a series of talks on FL, gather case studies and draw up an FAQ section to put onto the 14-19 Prospectus in Norfolk. The work started in May this year with Sharon working one day a week for Children's Services and the project runs until December 2009.



Enterprise wise

"E-Wise is a life-changing experience for all students and all students deserve the E-Wise experience."

Enterprise Wise (E-Wise) is an innovative scheme of work whose unique structure is recording excellent results in enterprise education at schools across the country. The programme is inclusive of all students and is packed with fun, non-standard learning activities which arouse a 'Can Do' attitude in young people. The course is devised to inspire students to become independent learners. The main outcome is to stimulate an enterprising behaviour which benefits students in all walks of life!

The course is based on units from the NOCN Step-UP qualifications and provides the equivalent of half a GCSE and contributes points for Achievement and Attainment Tables. For more information visit the [E-Wise website](#).

To find out how you can implement Step-UP please contact us on 01206 873023 or via [email](#).

Catch Up Numeracy trialling in Secondary Schools

Following its success in primary schools, Catch Up Numeracy, a structured one-to-one intervention for learners who struggle with numeracy, is now being trialled with secondary age pupils.

It has been developed from University of Oxford research, has been successfully implemented in more than 700 schools (in 37 local authorities across England and Wales), and has been recognised by the DCSF as a Wave 3 intervention for learners who struggle with numeracy.

Evidence was submitted to the '[What Works for Children with Mathematical Difficulties?](#)' research review which Dr Ann Dowker, University of Oxford, undertook on behalf of the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Primary National Strategy. The report, published at the end of March 2009, referred extremely positively to Catch Up Numeracy. It can be

downloaded from the [Catch Up website](#).

Another recent [independent report](#) provides feedback from school staff on their experiences and perceptions of the Catch Up Numeracy training process and its impact for pupils:

'Many of the teachers and TAs involved in the project considered that Catch Up Numeracy had raised the self-esteem and confidence of the pupils, as well as their knowledge and skills in number. There was also some evidence of a positive spill-over into other areas of school life as a consequence of this improved confidence'
([Evans, 2008](#))

Teachers and TAs comments also included *'It is a structured programme where the assessments are clear and understandable. The children's needs are highlighted and then all the activities are there to address those needs/gaps.'* ([Evans, 2008](#))

The training of staff who deliver Catch Up Numeracy to children is accredited by OCN Eastern Region. By 28th October 2009, 1969 staff from 767 schools in 37 LAs had been trained. In addition, 512 of these staff had already submitted their Unit 1 OCN accreditation evidence.

For more information on Catch Up Numeracy and Catch Up Literacy please visit the [Catch Up website](#).

Support and training

FL Practitioners' Forum

OCN Eastern Region hosts a termly forum for FL Practitioners. If you would like an invitation to the next meeting in February 2010 please [email us](#).

Other Support and Training

In most local authorities, the 14-19 strategy group or the Connexions service is working to provide help and advice in implementing the new reforms. In Norfolk, for example, Connexions Norfolk is offering the NOCN IAG Level 2 Award as CPD for schools.

OCN Eastern Region also attends 14-19 strategy group briefings to give an up to date overview from the perspective of an awarding body. If you would like us to brief your school or consortium please contact OCN Eastern Region on 01206 873023 or via [email](#).

We have recently added a suite of CPD courses to our training offering. One course is specifically aimed at staff within schools who are new to, or have responsibility for, credit based learning. It provides an overview of assessment processes and quality assurance systems. On completion participants will understand: the principles of assessment for credit based learning, the requirements of a quality management system for credit based learning and the key requirements of external assessment. For more information please contact our [training department](#).

Feedback

If there are topics you would like to see covered in future issues, please let us know. You can email newsletter@ocner.org.uk or click here. We are always interested to hear your thoughts and opinions. To ensure your continued receipt of this newsletter please add the domain ocner.org.uk to your safe senders list.

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