

Agenda Item 8

School Collaboration



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Profile: Rhydri Primary School – March 2015

- Special Measures since September 2013;
 - Questions over the quality of leadership;
 - Significant staff absence;
 - Financial difficulties;
 - Declining standards of learning;
 - Declining pupil numbers;
 - Significant intervention.
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- Strong community support for the school.

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Profile: Bedwas Junior School – March 2015

- Improved year on year progress – standards of learning;
 - Strong vision;
 - Distributed model of leadership;
 - Structured self review model;
 - Self sufficient.
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- Teaching staff lacked foundation phase experience.

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What happened next?

- Headteacher took additional responsibility for both schools;
- Extended distributed leadership model;
- Undertook structured self-review;
- Identified key policies to initiate positive change;
- Planned in teams across both schools;
- Monitored pupils' work across both schools - standards;
- Improved assessment procedures;
- Structured self review model;
- Provided additional opportunities for pupils.

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Additional opportunities



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Short term outcomes

Estyn Inspection – July 2015

- Improved standards in English, mathematics, science, ICT and Welsh;
- Teaching improved from 'inadequate' / 'satisfactory' to overall 'good' ;
- Good challenge identified for more able pupils;
- Improved monitoring and evaluation procedures;
- Improved assessment procedures;
- Improved quality of leadership – identified collaboration as a strength;
- Improved effectiveness of the Governing Body.

As a result of the above, Rhydri Primary was removed from special measures in July 2015, five months after collaboration between the two schools began.

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Long term outcomes

Bedwas Junior School

- Non class based role – Deputy Headteacher/Inclusion manager;
- Develop knowledge of foundation phase – leadership opportunities;
- Succession planning.

Rhydri Primary School

- Continued to build on initial successes;
- Shared vision continues to permeate across all aspects of school life.

Both Schools

- Improved teacher assessment data/test scores 2015-16;
- Staff enjoy collaboration process – part of a bigger organisation.

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