

Associate

DAVE SMITH

“Upside-down leadership starts with people, not government – that’s what makes a school genuinely outstanding”



There seems to be two ways to be a particularly outstanding headteacher these days. Play the game very well or else turn everything upside down and don't play the game at all. Dave is definitely the latter.

After leaving school with one O-level (he thought one was better than none) he has worked his way up the ladder the hard way with time as a junior at Liverpool FC en route. It is with insights such as these that help him know how to get into the mind of some of the hardest to reach children in school and help schools design a curriculum that really helps them excel.

As Headteacher of a northern UK primary school situated in the third most deprived borough in the country, Dave has taken the school through two Ofsted inspections, in 2005 and 2008, gaining “Outstanding” in all areas on both occasions.

The school was named as one of the top 200 performing schools in the country, performed in the top 10% of all schools for the last five years, placed number 50 in The Sunday Times top 300 high performing schools and has now been recognised as a Leadership Development School.

Dave is currently a Local Leader of Education (LLE), supporting schools in improving standards, progress, leadership and management and

has recently seen one of his schools move from good to be judged as ‘Good with outstanding features’. As part of a Teaching School Alliance, he also delivers leadership and management training, is chair of the Southern Area Collaborative of 22 schools working together for improvement and is very active in the School Improving School System (SiSS) process.

To add to this busy life, he also holds a Postgraduate Certificate in Process Consultancy from Manchester CEL and is currently contributing to the Middle Leadership Development Programme Qualification, Senior Leadership Development Programme Qualification and the new NPQH.

Recent feedback on Dave’s work includes:

“Listening to you speak made my inner voice cheer! Thank you for your “walk of encouragement”; Thank you for your story of leadership with no illusions and thank you for granting us all permission to shake it all up a bit and to have the confidence to turn it “upside down and inside out”

“I found Dave Smith to be inspiring and he has genuinely enthused me with a different approach to managing people. I have taken practical tips when I will take back to school and use”

“Thank you for coming to our conference and for speaking with such a marvellous blend of inspiration and humour which was just what was needed to leave our audience buzzing with enthusiasm”

What’s more, despite all his success across the full spectrum of school improvement, leadership and training, Dave never loses sight of what it is all about:

‘I’m determined that no child leaves my school uninspired or untouched by learning’.

Dave has been with Independent Thinking since 2009

All Independent Thinking Associates are DBS checked

See our website:
www.independentthinking.co.uk
for more information.