

CASE STUDY

Western Primary School, Harrogate

The subject leader is **Clare Howes**, who has led science for the last three years. Western is part of a Multi Academy Trust with twelve other schools. There are 460 children in school, and the proportion of disadvantaged pupils or pupils with SEN and/or disabilities is below that seen nationally.

Why PSQM?

Clare found out about PSQM through Facebook and persuaded her head teacher to apply, recognising that the process would provide a structure to audit established practice and, with the supportive guidance of a PSQM hub leader, to develop subject leadership, teaching, learning and wider opportunities.

How has PSQM changed science at Western?

All staff were involved in establishing a shared science vision which set the intent for science across school. The profile of science has been raised to its rightful position as a core subject alongside English and maths. Teachers are now enthusiastic about science and are more likely to ask questions relating to science and share their science 'wow' moments.

More time is now being allocated to science lessons. Science has become cross-curricular and extra-curricular, more practical and more child-led. Children are enthused and excited by their science learning and are keen to take their learning beyond the classroom.

Monitoring of science is now a developmental process, involving all staff plus pupil staff reps.

Resources have been upgraded and teachers are grateful to have equipment in school which are now well organised and more clearly labelled. They are also aware of online support that they can take full advantage of to further develop their own subject knowledge.

How has PSQM changed Clare?

As a result of the developments instigated as part the PSQM process, Western was invited to create a new science learning hub across the MAT and Clare is now at the forefront of primary science teaching and learning across the Red Kite Learning Trust.

She is a passionate advocate for PSQM, admitting that it was hard work, but a very rewarding experience. Her head teacher backs up Clare's assertion that PSQM has benefited children's learning and positively influenced their futures

"Science is a globally important discipline which holds the answers to so many of the world's problems and, as such, it needs to be a fundamental aspect of a school's curriculum. Our determination has always been to engender in our children a sense of excitement and wonder about the world of science and to develop them as curious, resilient and scientific learners. PSQM helped to make this happen; highly recommended." Head teacher

"We are very proud of our PSQM because it means that everyone can see how great science is at our school!" Year 5 pupil



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Western
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CREATING SUCCESS STORIES





What is PSQM?

PSQM is a yearlong CPD programme that helps schools to achieve a quality mark for science. It focuses on developing effective, confident science leadership for whole school impact on science teaching and learning.

Why PSQM?

- PSQM provides a framework for improvement and development in science leadership, teaching and learning, whatever the school's starting point.
- PSQM is a community: of subject leaders meeting together locally with an expert hub leader for training and support; of schools across the country sharing expertise, challenges and successes; and of organisations and individuals providing great support for primary science.
- PSQM makes a difference to the profile and quality of science in primary schools.
- PSQM celebrates the impact of great science leadership.

How does PSQM work?

There are three different Primary Science Quality Marks to ensure that all schools can achieve the accreditation. Subject leaders from participating schools attend training throughout the year. With their hub leader's support and guidance, they:

1. audit current provision for science;
2. agree which is the appropriate quality mark to aim for;
3. construct an action plan to met the thirteen criteria by the end of the year;
4. implement the plan and evaluate the impact on science teaching and learning;
5. compile a reflective submission to demonstrate how the criteria have been met.

The criteria are differentiated for each Primary Science Quality Mark to ensure that there is appropriate challenge and development for all schools, whatever their starting point. Over 60% of schools begin with PSQM, but for some schools, where effective leadership is already embedded, the other quality marks provide the right development goals. They cover all aspects of science provision:

- Science Leadership - vision and value, development goals, monitoring and professional development for subject leadership;
- Science Teaching - CPD, teaching strategies, resources;
- Science Learning - science enquiry, assessment, science capital;
- Wider Opportunities – linking science with other subjects and whole school initiatives, curriculum enrichment.



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