

## West Midlands junior school wins award for innovative approach to assessment

### **New Invention Junior School in Willenhall presented with EDI Centre of Excellence Award**

The New Invention Junior School in Willenhall has won a Centre of Excellence award for its innovative approach to assessment and its dedication to pupil development. The award, introduced by EDI, was presented to the school on 18 June 2008. Recognising and rewarding the innovative primary school for its consistently improving results, the award also highlights the school's success in making assessment a positive experience for its pupils.

New Invention Junior School has 347 pupils on roll from the age of 7 to 11, with a large catchment area that ranges from Willenhall to Cannock. With many of its pupils coming from deprived areas, the primary school has made outstanding progress in nurturing its pupils and enabling them to improve, not just academically but also personally. Over the past few years the school has excelled in raising standards, helped by its innovative approach to assessment. Indeed, in November last year the school was one of only 28 schools nationwide to be awarded an 'ICT Excellence Award' from Becta, the Government's lead partner in the strategic development and delivery of its technology strategy for schools.

Determined not to daunt its pupils with constant talk of 'SATs' and assessment, New Invention Junior School has succeeded in making tests feel part of every day school life for its pupils, without undermining their importance. Pupils are encouraged to think of their learning as a journey and teachers ensure that each journey is tailored and made personal to every single pupil.

Combining assessment and modern technology is one example of how New Invention Junior School ensures that its pupils are at ease with tests. Recognising that even the youngest of pupils enjoys working online, the school has implemented Goal, an online interactive assessment service, to measure a wide range of pupil knowledge and skill capabilities. Using Goal as part of the assessment process has enabled the school to track every single pupil's progress, highlighting areas and issues for concern. Results of tests are provided to teachers within minutes, giving students quick and targeted feedback – vital for keeping their attitudes positive!

With both personalised learning journeys and an online assessment programme in place, teachers at New Invention Junior School have been able to spend more time focusing on teaching and implementing developmental programmes for their pupils rather than actually assessing them. As a result, the school has enjoyed an above average league table position for its SATs results.

Ann Taylor, Head of New Invention Junior School commented: “Our school has gone from strength to strength in the past few years and we are thrilled to be nominated as a Centre of Excellence by EDI. We are proud of our innovative approaches to assessment and we believe that our use of ICT has contributed to this success. Using Goal has not only helped motivate our students to sit assessments but has also significantly reduced marking time and workload for our teachers, enabling them to concentrate on teaching rather than administration.”

Jason Davis, Business Development Manager at EDI, commented: “We are delighted to present New Invention Junior School with our EDI Centre of Excellence Award. We cannot commend the school highly enough for its innovative and creative approach to assessment. Pupils leaving New Invention Junior School benefit not only from new knowledge but also from having developed all kinds of skills that will help them in their future academic, personal and work life.”



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