



Practitioner Research Community

Lighthouse Schools Partnership and the University of Bristol have been working together to develop this proposal for a Practitioner Research Community situated in LSP and benefitting from the expertise and resources of Bristol's School of Education. We have identified a path for teacher-researchers to have their work accredited through the Chartered College of Teaching's Education Research and Enquiry Certificate. We believe that teachers and teaching assistants can and do craft educational innovation through practice and so have the potential to be a powerful community for generating research evidence and insight, rather than simply the users of it.

The aims of this proposed partnership are to:

- Promote practitioner research.
- Support teachers to work deeply with ideas and explore these ideas in practice.
- Promote teacher experiences and innovations as part of educational research evidence.
- Blur and bridge the gaps between practice and theory.
- Generate context critical research evidence.
- Build a sustainable model for practitioner research as part of professional practice, enhancing the educational experience of students as a result.

We believe that this potential can be best enabled through a research community of practitioners and academics working collaboratively within a space of equality and partnership. We feel such a community would be a value-driven one based on a set of core values such as:

- The equality of ideas and relationships between members of the community.
- Inclusivity of community membership.
- Conversation/sharing/exploration/translation.
- Co-authorship/co-production.
- Critical engagement with existing research.
- The importance of teachers gathering their own evidence when evaluating practice.

We are hoping to develop and trial a model for this type of collaboration through a pilot project.

Pilot research project

Gary Lewis from the Trust Central Team, Rachel Hardwidge from Hannah More Infants and Grove Juniors and Harriet John from Chew Valley School have all recently completed post-graduate studies in education and will convene the community with support from Prof Alf Coles, Dr Tracey Helliwell, Dr David Bainton and Jon James from Bristol University.

We propose to:

1. Recruit a small group of practitioners (Teachers or Teaching Assistants)
2. Fund one day's release time for each practitioner to support research or create time for reading and reflection and an additional day if they seek accreditation through the Chartered College of Teaching [Education Research and Inquiry Certificate](#)
3. Curate a reading list of research papers/material related to the topic and agree as a group a short list to focus on within the group.

4. Have expert input from the School of Education at the University of Bristol to support new researchers to find their feet. The University have offered to host meetings at Berkley Square and we may also use Teams.
5. Gary, Harriet and Rachel will directly support researchers as their 1:1 buddy and can meet online or face to face to give guidance and support.
6. Hold an end of cycle dissemination event to share outcomes with headteachers and curriculum/T&L leaders.

Commitments of participants

We envisage:

1. A network that meets termly (i.e., 6 times a year) in a twilight session involving practitioners and academics working together as partners and peers.
2. Practitioners committed to some academic reading, sharing observations and reflections, and practically engaging in observation and data collection in the field.
3. Opportunities to present and co-author outcomes for dissemination with the University of Bristol and Chartered College of Teaching.

Accreditation

We will use the [Education Research and Inquiry Certificate](#) from the Chartered College of Teaching. This programme provides some online resources that will supplement the input from colleagues at the University of Bristol. It is assessed through a 3,500 – 5,500 word report and a research poster (max 750 words). The certificate is one of four modules that can lead to full Chartered Status for teachers wishing to pursue that. LSP will fund college membership and the fees for the research certificate.

Next steps

We will be running an information event in September. If you would like to find out more, please email enquiries@lsp.org.uk heading your email Research Community by Friday 13th September.