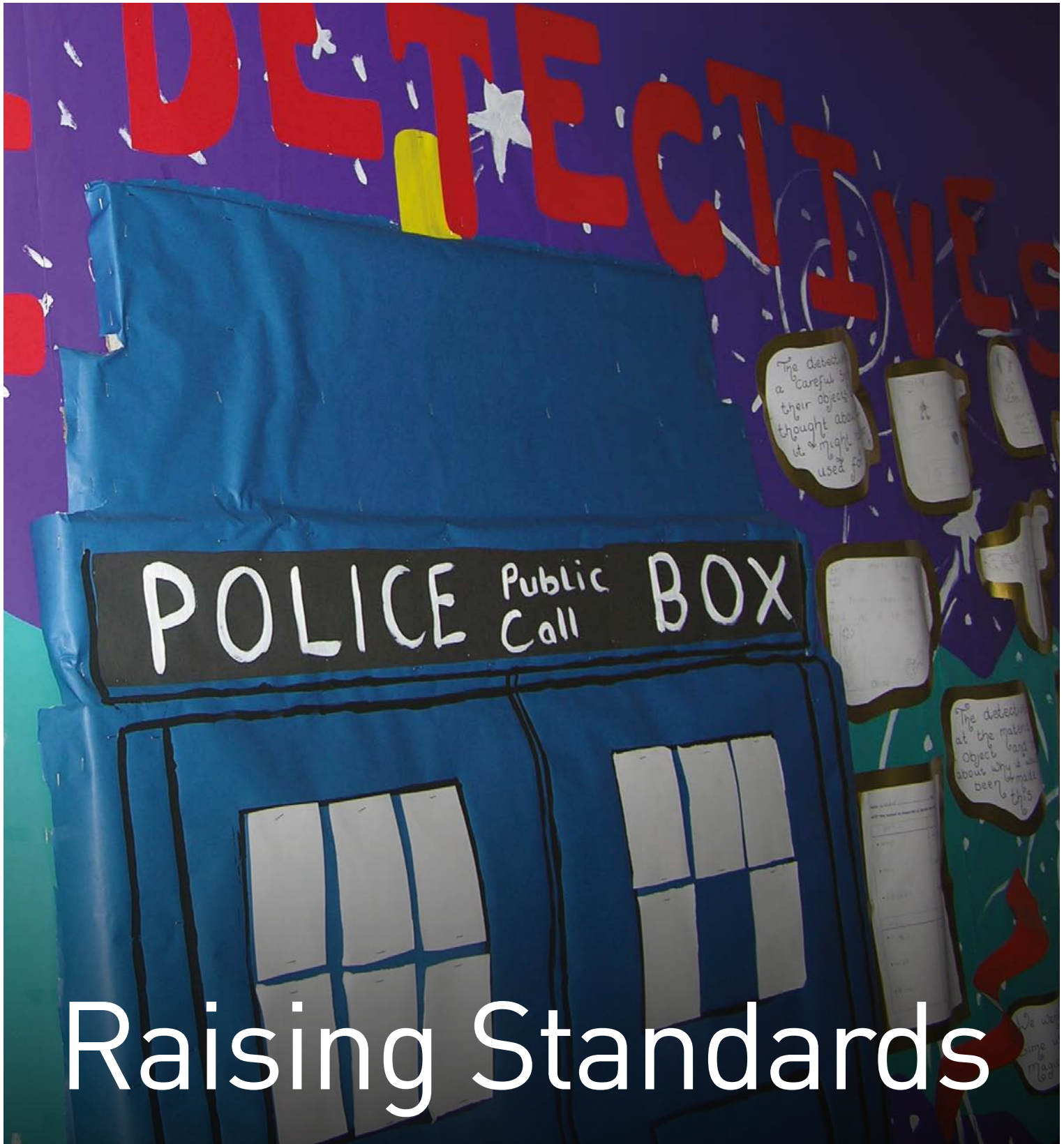




LOOKING FOR
LEARNING

The Looking for Learning Toolkit



Raising Standards

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Raising Standards

Lillington Primary School in Leamington is one of over 130 Warwickshire schools (out of a total of 199) that are using the Looking for Learning Toolkit to help raise standards. Headteacher Davinder Jandu of Lillington Primary explains how the Looking for Learning Toolkit has made a difference in her school.

“When I first started reading the Looking for Learning manuals, I literally couldn’t put them down. Everything that they said made sense; they made the way we deliver the curriculum make sense, they made assessment for learning make sense, they made the way I work with my teachers and the way we all work with each child make sense. It was like the final piece in a jigsaw. What it did was to clarify why we’re doing things. It provided a depth to my understanding of all learning. It pulled all the threads that I instinctively knew were important but couldn’t necessarily articulate why, together. Whether you’ve been teaching for 25 years or are a newly qualified teacher, the Looking for Learning Toolkit helps everything about how, why and what children learn make sense.

About the children

“I asked each one of my senior leadership team to read folder two (‘About Learning’) and each day someone came back saying they couldn’t put it down. Each one said the same thing; that the manual talked about every single one of their children in some way.

For me it wasn’t just about the children, I could also see all of my staff one way or another. As a result it’s changed the way we are doing things; small things that make a huge difference. For example, one of my teachers has a child with learning difficulties. He’s tweaked the way he supports her learning and her improvement has been very noticeable. For another teacher, it’s now understanding how to respond to the learning style of a gifted and talented child. It’s made some quite dramatic changes for our children. And for the staff too. In our staff meetings I’ve realised my reflective thinkers weren’t ever given the chance to make an active contribution. So now we have a short follow-up staff meeting the day after our main staff meeting to allow everyone, especially the slow

thinkers, time and space to consider and respond.

If there’s one piece of advice I would give to any school taking on the Looking for Learning Toolkit, it’s to get everyone to read folder two first. It’s all about the children. That’s the thing that makes the most impact. For our NQTs, in fact for everyone, this is about the firmest foundation they could have.

A whole school focus on learning

“The Looking for Learning Toolkit has helped us to come up with a definition of learning across the whole school. It’s helped us to establish learning conversations. It’s provided a common drive amongst everyone; teaching and non-teaching staff. Everyone is moving forward together with a common focus on learning and without doubt, this is driving standards.

Raising standards

“The Looking for Learning Toolkit has without doubt upped our standards because the children’s mindsets are different. Now they go into the classroom knowing they are going to learn. The entire approach to learning is far more positive. In terms of a change in culture, that’s definitely visible. The conversations in class are all now focused on learning. There are also changes in the atmosphere in the staffroom. To begin with, I encouraged my staff to talk about a good learning experience that had just happened in their class so, as a result, it’s become a very positive time of talk. The tone has changed in the staffroom. Now everyone wants to talk about their positive learning experiences.

And so now, when they leave at the end of lunchtime, the atmosphere going back into the classroom is positive. That’s definitely a culture change.”



The Looking for Learning Toolkit in action



The Looking for Learning Toolkit is based on six years of consultancy work with leading schools around the world. The rationale for the creation of a toolkit version of the consultancy support was that all schools should have access to a meaningful and jargon-free development programme at a cost that wasn't prohibitive. The Looking for Learning Toolkit was launched in March 2009 and is already being used in over 260 schools.

The Looking for Learning Toolkit is a cost-effective, practical, results-oriented leadership toolkit to help schools become more focused on learning. The Toolkit, described by one Head as "my new management bible" includes five manuals and supporting DVDs containing strategies and suggestions relevant for any school to become learning-focused. This includes the very latest information about

learning and how it happens, a unique protocol to identify, improve and increase learning in the classroom, an online database to record and disaggregate improvements in learning by kind, subject, class, year-group and whole school, a series of fully explained rubrics that help schools identify how learning-focused they are in more than thirty elements of school life, a collection of management strategies to help school leaders develop learning-focused schools and membership of The Learning Network; a live on-line community of learning-focused schools from around the world sharing best practice and experiences.

To find out more about the Looking for Learning Toolkit or to talk to a school working with the Looking for Learning Toolkit in your area call us at 020 7531 9696 or email info@lookingforlearning.co.uk

IDENTIFYING IMPROVING INCREASING LEARNING

in YOUR school

