

Supplementary Schools Strengths and Challenges



NRCSE

National Resource Centre for Supplementary Education

www.supplementaryeducation.org.uk

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NRCSE – Main Projects

- Quality Mark support
- Organisation and delivery of courses, i.e:
 - Refresher training
 - 3 Days Good Management Courses
 - Organisation of ETS training courses, including those for Islamic supplementary schools
 - Organisation of SEN training courses
 - Open training, e.g. safeguarding, behaviour management, etc.
 - Quarterly Networking Events

NRCSE – Main Project cont.

- Governance Support, e.g.
 - Management committee
 - Premises
 - Fundraising
 - Enabling networking with mainstream schools

Supplementary schools – Streng

- Raising achievement
- Tackling inequalities
- Increasing self belief and confidence
- Grounding children in heritage culture
- Bridge between school and families
- Tackling truancy
- Tackling social ills, e.g. gang culture, substance misuse etc.
- Providing career advice
- Increasing access to higher education
- Providing opportunities for parents to exchange information
- Parent education and awareness

Supplementary schools – Challenges

- Lack of recognition
- Lack of secure, sustainable funding
- Exploitation by mainstream schools
- Inadequate premises
- Over reliance on volunteers
- Quality of teaching can be variable

Beyond the School Gates concluded that many supplementary schools were disappointed by the lack of positive government interest and engagement – and yearned for stability and continuity instead of sporadic hand-to-mouth government funding. There was a general sense amongst school leaders that the failure of government to recognise the contribution of supplementary schools, increased resentment when the spotlight was extremism and the Prevent agenda, the report said. RSA Report 2015

What can the Mayor do?

- Draft London Plan (Policy S3, Education and Childcare Facilities, and Policy E3, should recognise the contribution of supplementary schools and suggest some proposals to resolve some of the challenges they face, e.g. premises, funding, etc.
- The Mayor's Office could play an important role in facilitating networking among supplementary schools and equality bodies, and enabling their access to mainstream education establishments, politicians and the business community.