

School Improvement Partner Accreditation Programme

Special Pen portrait example

I have been headteacher of Sloman School, Ashshire – my second headship – since April 1998. Sloman is a secondary MLD school of 170 students, with a changing profile so that now we support students with SLD, severe language disorders, students on the autistic spectrum and with a range of emotional and behavioural difficulties.

We achieved designation as a specialist Technology College in 2004, IIP status in 2002 and the Schools Curriculum Award in 2005. We have developed a highly successful post-16 department of 40, recognized for the effective manner in which it prepares students for life after school. We have built strong links within our local community, including an influential role in our cluster of schools and FE college.

Since 1998, we have raised standards, year on year, using a range of measures to identify and celebrate students' achievement. These include P scales, modified National Curriculum assessments and a broad range of accreditation routes from Year 11 onwards. There have been substantial premises developments. The school now has a learning environment which ensures all students full entitlement to the National Curriculum, and has a number of specialist facilities to meet students' additional needs. Also, working closely with my leadership team, we have moved the school from being relatively isolated to being at the heart of the community. Our success was recognised in our recent Ofsted report: "The leadership provided by the headteacher is excellent."

I am an Ofsted-trained inspector, chair of the local special schools group and acted as mentor to a headteacher. I was seconded to the local authority to lead developments on inclusion.

I have a clear vision about the future of education, the capacity to ensure delivery, and a strong commitment to improving the quality of learning for young people.

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