



cureeNews

CPD that really makes a difference: Coaching & Mentoring courses

Do you have responsibility for mentoring and coaching in your school or local authority? Are you new to mentoring and/or coaching and want to develop your skills?

Problem-solving Mentoring and Coaching is our core CPD programme. It draws on the best evidence about CPD that really makes a difference. A one-day workshop will help you understand effective approaches to mentoring and coaching and how to put them into practice, in for example enhancing assessment for learning practices, deepening questioning skills or building on students' own conceptions.

The workshop is split into two sessions. In the morning you'll take part in facilitated activities and group work to explore the National Framework for Mentoring and Coaching. This covers the principles, core concepts, skills and activities that ensure the greatest impact. The afternoon session consists of activities to address specific needs. Previous groups have for example explored activities such as mystery games to recruit and enthuse colleagues, practised using different kinds of questions to unlock learning within a coaching session and planned to use coaching to build a professional learning community. The workshops will help you to:

- focus on personalised learning needs
- develop mentoring and coaching training resources for you to use in school
- put into practice ideas you develop during the workshop
- build a plan for taking back and transferring skills in your own school
- gain confidence in recognising and being able to navigate your way around the work of the national agencies.

New Mentoring and Coaching Library

The national framework for mentoring and coaching which we developed is now available at the TDA mentoring and coaching library. The library is a new TDA extranet that has been created to provide

video clips illustrating key skills and principles, which we designed to support the framework. The site includes activities you can undertake with colleagues to raise interest and awareness and start to build skills, plus case



information on materials and resources developed across the education sector to support the development of mentoring and coaching programmes in schools. The library also houses a range of resources, including

studies of how six different schools have developed an effective mentoring and coaching culture. For further information about the library, including how to access it, e-mail us at: info@curee.co.uk

The workshops take place at CUREE in Coventry and cost £195 plus VAT per delegate. The cost includes the workshop and follow up support. Alternatively, group bookings can be arranged in a venue (such as a school or conference centre) near you. To register your interest, complete an online booking form. To find out more about bespoke programmes e-mail info@curee.co.uk with your enquiry and contact details.



Still from the CUREE coaching & mentoring video resources

Roundup: some of our current projects

Scaling up and transfer: Building an evidence-informed approach

Educational policymaking is constantly frustrated by a lack of awareness, knowledge and understanding about effective take up, transfer and scaling up of new initiatives. By scaling up we mean reaching and moving beyond a critical mass of take-up of an innovation. Because widespread take-up can remain superficial, transfer is also necessary for take-up to be meaningful. By transfer we mean 'deep and lasting change,' which involves both a change in teachers' knowledge and normal practice and an understanding of the underpinning rationale.

This project, commissioned by the Innovation Unit at the DfES will be based on both research and practice. We aim to bring together the evidence from the research literature with the views and experiences of practitioners and policymakers in an informed national debate. We expect to test the emerging evidence and tools through case studies in two colleges, two schools and two local authorities or networks currently engaged in transfer and scaling up work.

A series of regional and national seminars is planned running from this Autumn until the Summer of 2007. The seminars are for policy makers and stakeholders from schools, and local, regional and national, policy organisations including the national strategies, GTC, NCSL, TDA, SSAT, QCA, and QIA. The seminars will give delegates the opportunity to share and debate the key messages from the research, as well as possible solutions to the challenges that are revealed. Ultimately, we aim to develop a set of guiding principles that underpin effective transfer and scaling up. E-mail us at info@curee.co.uk if you would like to be kept informed and possibly even involved in these seminars.

Post Graduate Professional Development (PPD) Programme

We are working with the TDA on a three-year evaluation of the PPD programme. Evaluations of PPD programmes tend to be challenging

because of the distance between the programmes and their eventual impact on learning. The evaluation will be based on robust evidence about effective CPD and designed in ways that will add value to the PPD programme as a whole and increase our understanding of the role of evaluation in effective CPD.

Who are we?

CUREE is an independent organisation that works with the Department for Education and Skills, the Training and Development Agency for Schools, the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust, the General Teaching Council, the National Strategies, the National Union of Teachers and the National College for School Leadership, as well as schools and local authorities. Visit our website to find out more about us.

We expect to explore the nature of effective PPD partnerships – how partnerships are conceived, negotiated and set up, and what structures and processes help make partnerships more effective. We aim to work with partnerships to identify how key factors in adult

learning that have the potential to create barriers to participation (such as personal and professional working contexts, lack of support, course design) work in practice. During our discussions we will also try to explore specific potential barriers relating to ethnicity and disability

Classroom professional development activities: tasters

We are working with Professor Andrew Pollard and colleagues to raise awareness of the ESRC Teaching and Learning Research Programme through 'research tasters'. Each research taster offers teachers a brief summary of a finding from educational research, a related classroom activity and suggestions for moving forward. The research findings are drawn from a wide range of topics that we know are of interest to teachers and the suggested activities will offer teachers rich opportunities for professional development. The activities will help them to reflect on and explore the implications of the research finding for their current practice and in their own school context. Around 200 research tasters will be available on the Reflective Teacher website. The website is due to be relaunched in mid-November.

Come and talk to us!

CUREE will be at The 4th Annual Practitioner Enquiry & Research Conference

Wolverhampton Science Park, 17th November 2006, 8.30am – 3pm

For more information about this event or to register, email R.Ralph@wlv.ac.uk