

## **Plan and Develop Your Organisation Consult, monitor and evaluate**

### **Cal Aj Education Partnership Supplementary School, Walsall**

#### **Background**

Cal Aj Education Partnership (CAEP) Supplementary School was set up by Education Walsall to address local concerns within the Muslim Community in Walsall relating to pupil non-achievement in mainstream schools. Education Walsall stepped in to set up CAEP to address these issues. Birch Hills Mosque currently provides a room for them to run after-school sessions in Maths and English for 20 Year 6 pupils. On Fridays, they also offer enrichment days, where pupils take part in education games to improve their higher order thinking, with activities such as chess, jigsaws and social skills such as taking turns.

CAEP has been instrumental in seeing active improvements in its pupils from close monitoring and analysis of their grades and achievements, documenting progress and addressing any special needs.

#### **Plan and Develop Your Organisation**

CAEP initially set up a pilot scheme for the supplementary school, and worked in close contact with Education Walsall. Education Walsall brought their expertise to the table and helped to teach in the school and facilitate the school's progress through the Quality Framework. This gave the organisation the impetus to focus on its planning and governance, monitoring and evaluating the progress of the pupils. CAEP is currently working on securing future funding in order to set up a self-sustainable framework. The school has expanded to appoint its own chair/vice chair and treasurer.

CAEP have set this process in motion by constituting the organisation, making it a limited company so that it can apply for funding. CAEP will continue to work with Education Walsall, as they provide invaluable support and guidance on all manner of issues. Eventually, Education Walsall will take on more of a consultant role. This shows their dedication to the school, and the school's desire to pursue quality, through their close interaction with an education body. They are actively pursuing funding to pay a coordinator who can take on the administrative responsibilities of the school. They are also in the process of hiring teachers, rather than relying on volunteers to deliver the curriculum.

#### **Consult, monitor and evaluate**

CAEP were able to show the impact of the work with Year 6 pupils so much so that there is now demand to extend the project to encompass every age group. The school is very outcome-driven. At board meetings, the school provides evidence that it is fulfilling its strategic objectives through attendance statistics. They then measure these against whether each pupil's attainment has improved.

#### **Challenges and Solutions**

The school has received a lot of positive feedback from the community it serves and from Education Walsall. The only challenge they have faced is to do with the perception of the school being only open to pupils from the Muslim community. While it is true that the school was set up to target raising the attainment of Muslim pupils, there are plans to open up attendance to more pupils. They will keep the mosque as the venue to try and open it up as a venue to the wider community.

### **Top tips**

- Set up a board or management committee, agree the outcomes and communicate them to teachers.
- Communicate regularly with teachers.
- Employ staff who understand outcome expectations. Keep revisiting those outcomes.
- Be involved - don't leave it up to teachers. Challenge them and support them in overcoming those challenges.