Finding the Focus

A Collaborative Pause and Play Resource for DEIS Planning

Resource Overview

Finding the Focus is a pause and play resource designed to facilitate collaborative review of one theme *(Literacy, Numeracy, Retention, Attendance, Partnership with parents and others, Progressions and Transitions)* in your schools current DEIS plan and aid you in identifying an area of focus for moving forward.

This resource is designed to be used over **2 separate sessions** of approximately **one hour each.** Schools decide which theme they would like to review**.**

Session 1

Session 1 facilitates a reflection on the DEIS programme in your school context and encourages investigation into what interventions have been successful and for which cohorts of pupils within your chosen theme.

Session 2

Session 2 is divided into two separate parts. You may need to engage with both parts, depending on what you have decided as a result of engaging with session 1.

Requirements for Session 1 and 2

One to two staff members, ideally with expertise in your chosen theme, need to act as facilitators. It is advisable for these staff members to watch the video in advance.

Resources

- IWB/projector
- sticky-notes
- flipchart/A1 size charts for display purposes
- prompt sheets for all participants
- your school's current DEIS plan
- Looking at our School 2022
- Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice
- Primary Language Curriculum (if choosing to focus on literacy)
- Primary Maths Curriculum (if choosing to focus on numeracy)

Finding the Focus

A Collaborative Pause and Play Resource for DEIS Planning

Session 1 Prompt Sheet

Time: 1 Hour

Date of session:

Names of facilitating staff:

Chosen theme:

(Literacy/Numeracy/Attendance/Progressions and Transitions/Partnership with Parents and Others/Retention)

```
┌─────────────────────────────┐
│                             │
│                             │
│                             │
└─────────────────────────────┘
```

Pause 1: What is a DEIS Plan? (2 mins)

How does your current DEIS plan align with these criteria? (Silent Reflection)

Finding the Focus

A Collaborative Pause and Play Resource for DEIS Planning

Pause 2: Reviewing Current Plan - Targets (10 mins)

What targets did you focus on in the chosen theme for your previous iteration of DEIS planning?

In groups or as whole staff, depending on context, confer using questions on the slide. Each group document responses below.

Finding the Focus

A Collaborative Pause and Play Resource for DEIS Planning

Pause 3: Targets, Evidence and Impact (15 minutes)

Consider your targets, evidence and impact.

In groups or as whole staff, depending on context, confer using questions on the slide. Each group document responses below.

Finding the Focus

A Collaborative Pause and Play Resource for DEIS Planning

Pause 4: Reviewing Current Plan - Actions (15 minutes)

Consider your actions for those targets.

In groups or as whole staff, depending on context, confer using questions on the slide. Each group document responses below.

Finding the Focus

A Collaborative Pause and Play Resource for DEIS Planning

Pause 5: Moving Forward (5 minutes)

After analysis of the evidence, consider if you are going to stay with this focus or are you moving to another area of focus for this theme?

Refer to the Moving Forward slide to discuss and decide your next step for session two. Use the information gathered already in this session to help to inform your decision.

Do you think your area of focus is still relevant to the needs of the pupils of your school?

Finding the Focus

A Collaborative Pause and Play Resource for DEIS Planning

Session 2 Prompt Sheet

Time: 1 hour

Session 2 Overview:

This session is designed to enable you to decide on what your next area of focus will be and how you will begin to gather evidence.

If you have decided to continue with the same focus from your existing DEIS plan within your chosen theme, skip to **Part 2 of Session 2**

If you have decided to identify a new focus within this theme, please start with **Part 1 and then continue to Part 2.**

Date of session:

Names of facilitating staff:

Chosen theme for today:

(Literacy/Numeracy/Attendance/Progressions and Transitions/Partnership with Parents and Others/Retention)

Finding the Focus

A Collaborative Pause and Play Resource for DEIS Planning

Session 2 Part 1: Identify Focus

Pause 1: Identifying the New Focus (10 minutes)

Sharing Activity:

On a post it, write what you think could be a focus to work on. If you have more than one idea, use separate sticky-notes. Consider the questions on the slide:

- *What is the greatest need? What is the greatest need for all pupils? What is the greatest need for those most at risk?*

- *What do you want to improve?*

- *What is the priority need right now in your chosen theme?*

Feedback Activity:

Role of Facilitating Staff: Group sticky-notes according to similar ideas/areas of need. Make a list of the general areas of focus arising. Keep a record of the different areas of focus suggested by the teachers below.

Identified possible areas of focus:
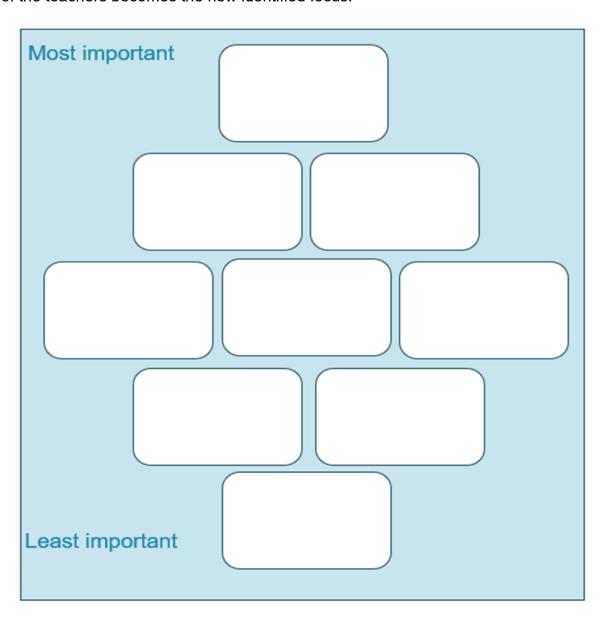
Finding the Focus

A Collaborative Pause and Play Resource for DEIS Planning

Pause 2: Choosing the Focus (15 minutes)

Diamond 9 Activity

Role of Facilitating Staff: List the areas of focus that arose from the grouping of the sticky notes.

Instructions to Group: In groups or as a whole staff, decide on which areas you feel are most important to least important, arranging them on the diamond nine as appropriate. The area of need selected as being the most important by the majority of the teachers becomes the new identified focus.

Finding the Focus

A Collaborative Pause and Play Resource for DEIS Planning

Session 2 Part 2: Gather Evidence

Pause 3: Document Engagement (10 minutes)

Take the time to engage with the relevant documents, i.e. *Looking at Our School 2022* (p.25 contains useful overview), the *Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice, the Primary Language Curriculum and Primary Mathematics Curriculum.*

Pause 4: Gathering Evidence in Practice (15 minutes)

(For those continuing with the same focus from their existing DEIS plan, evidence gathered since the last session may be used to inform your work if appropriate.)

Facilitator Role: Pose questions on prompt sheet to the group and record answers.

Q1. What evidence exists in the school already to inform development of your selected area of focus?

Q2. What methods of evidence gathering could you use to gather new data? Consider appropriateness and whether qualitative or quantitative is more appropriate.

Finding the Focus

A Collaborative Pause and Play Resource for DEIS Planning

Q3. Who is responsible for gathering the data?

Q4. How will you ensure a broad range of voices and perspectives?

Q5. What is your timeline?

Please keep a record of information gathered during this session.