

Support Staff Update

November 2005

This has certainly been a growth area particularly in the way that we acknowledge and recognise the contribution that all staff make to enable our schools to run effectively and efficiently. To mark this there have been a number of national initiatives which we have been able to develop in South Gloucestershire to support this. The new generic Vocational Qualification Support Staff in Schools and the Higher Level Teaching Assistant Assessment are two that we have been busily involved with this year.

SUPPORT WORK IN SCHOOLS V.Q. (Pilot)

Staple Hill Primary School has been the first School in South Gloucestershire to achieve this qualification, and we learn from our awarding body that nationally we are 'among the first candidates to receive certificates' (CACHE) for this new qualification.

13 Lunchbreak supervisors from Staple Hill came into school weekly, giving up their own time, for portfolio building and some teaching sessions.

They also gained First Aid certificates and attended a Child Protection Session. Because it is a new qualification we were all learning as we went along and they did a wonderful job in sustaining interest and eventually presenting evidence for assessment. All the candidates who submitted bulging portfolios achieved the certificate.

Who is it for?

This qualification is suitable for all support roles in school and has units that cover supporting Numeracy and Literacy (excellent for Teaching Assistants who have just completed their induction), maintenance, health and safety, office skills and technical support.

How can all schools access this?

I am preparing in-house assessors so that this award can be gained at minimum cost (free at the moment). Support Staff may do the Assessors Award so that they can co-ordinate assessment and lead training of this award in their own schools or within the cluster.

The Assessors Award is a Level 3 / 4 award. We are working in close partnership with Pete Kendall at Filton College to make this immediately available. Further information session dates will be circulated soon.

