



School Effectiveness+ Case Study
Birch Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School

Following an ‘Outstanding’ rating from Ofsted in 2013, national support school, Birch Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School in rural northeast Essex has been hugely oversubscribed and is now “bursting at the seams”.

Kate Moore, Headteacher Birch Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School and Ofsted inspector, discusses the impact of EES for Schools’ School Effectiveness+ programme in her school...

“Performance expectations and evidencing have put a lot of pressure on headteachers today, especially when it comes to the ever-changing agenda of inspections that judge whether a school is ‘good’ or not” says Kate, “effectiveness should be driven by far more than the inspection agenda, as this is only a small part of the critical evaluation for a school’s development.”

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You can assess the strengths and weaknesses of your school far beyond the narrow scope of Ofsted guidelines, and in a much more positive way; this is what School Effectiveness+ (SE+) does.

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Based on ‘The 25 Characteristics of High-Performing Schools’, School Effectiveness+ (SE+) allows schools to evaluate their strengths and weakness, prioritise improvements, deliver outcomes and evidence these.

“Using ‘The 25 Characteristics of High-Performing Schools’ as a reference point is incredibly powerful” explains Kate, “as a headteacher, you are swamped with information, so being able to quickly identify the improvements that will have the biggest impact is incredibly helpful.”

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Every member of my staff works as hard as I do and arrives each day with the desire to make a difference and to positively impact the delivery of education for our pupils. When we’re all working towards a goal together there is true strength in numbers and SE+ helped us to embed this attitude throughout the whole school.

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Using SE+, schools like Birch Primary School are able to efficiently evaluate and focus their priorities to drive real improvement throughout their school and collect data to evidence this.

“Evidence is key in schools today, and being able to show strengths and weaknesses, not only in teaching and pupil attainment, but in the processes of the whole school is incredibly powerful” concludes Kate “The SE+ maturity model helps to uncover what will make the biggest difference and then guides you to look at how you evidence your outcomes and progress.”

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