

# KYRA Newsletter



KYRA is a community for teaching, leadership and school improvement partnership

 [KYRAteaching](#)

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#ambitiousforchildren



Welcome,  
to the  
KYRA  
newsletter

Last year we saw some significant milestones in the journey of the KYRA Alliance; celebrating ten years of partnership and community, being awarded a Silver Award for Impact Through Partnership from the Pearson Teaching Awards, and relaunching the peer review school improvement cycle through the Schools Partnership Program. The continued commitment to our DNA, demonstrating collective professionalism, expertise and moral purpose shines through across our KYRA community.

This first newsletter of the academic year 2022-23, is one of two parts; a celebration of last year's milestones and a lens through which we can look forward for our hopes for this academic year.

We as a community, collectively respond to our school needs as they arise and regularly new strands of activity emerge. These termly newsletters will be an opportunity to share and shine, a celebration of KYRA schools, peer review case studies, KYRA Kids work, practice spotlights and signposting expertise across the Alliance.

I know this year will require the strength of our leadership, and continued ambition for our pupils and the communities we serve and I look forward to working with you all .....

*Lesley*

Lesley Coulthurst, Head of KYRA Alliance

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## From Building to Embedding

## School Improvement for KYRA Schools Through Peer Review

The cycle of peer review has been a core approach for the KYRA model of school improvement since the partnership began in 2012. Following the turbulence of the pandemic, our community of schools were clear; that however challenging the educational landscape was, we needed to move from the reactive practice that COVID enforced upon our schools and return to strategic school improvement.

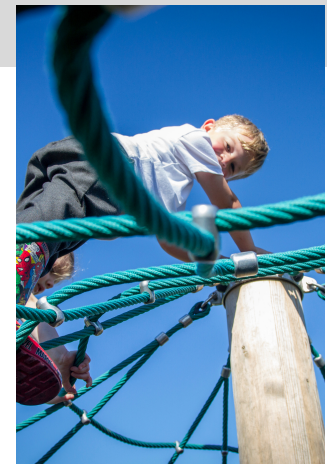
In September 2022 the KYRA SPP Model of Peer Review was launched. KYRA and Education Development Trust (EDT) Schools Partnership Programme (SPP) worked together to co-construct a bespoke re-invigorated peer review model for KYRA schools and the wider school community in Lincolnshire.

Aligning KYRA's DNA with the principles of SPP, the aim is to create a supportive school improvement programme at scale, to effect wide-scale school improvement based on a reciprocal model.

## » SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

“ As we look ahead to a global world that is unstable, we must take a serious look at how we develop education systems that are more effective, equitable, resilient and more stable to withstand future shocks

SPP: Peer review at a time of pandemic  
(Article in Professional Development Today)



Find out more about the Schools Partnership Programme

Visit: [schoolspartnershipprogramme.com](https://schoolspartnershipprogramme.com) where you will find a wealth of information and resources including research, practice insight papers, blogs and more.

2021-22

Lessons learned from the first year's cycle were:

- Create triads based on geography, a fresh pair of eyes and a blend of SPP experience.
- Deliver face-to-face training to smaller groups to ensure fidelity to the programme.
- Introduce a layer of Strategic Leads to share best practice and priority themes.
- Build capacity within the system of Improvement Champions and Shadow Reviewers.
- Keep up the momentum between the improvement workshop and ninety-day check in.

2022-23

The launch of Phase 2: Embed has launched in the first Autumn term and has involved:

- A Getting Started Workshop for nine new schools
- A full training day delivered at local host schools for triads to come together. Thank you to Scotter Primary School, Caistor CE and Methodist Primary School, Ancaster CofE Primary School, Willoughby St Helena's CE Primary School and Edward Richardson Primary School for hosting these.
- Training delivered to 38 schools, 112 Lead Reviewers, Shadow Reviewers and Improvement Champions.

Now the peer review schedules have begun we wait excitedly to hear back from schools about their lines of enquiry, areas of priority and school improvement strategies which will be shared between schools to maximise the joint school improvement opportunities.

We are looking forward to being joined by Maggie Farrar on Monday 28th November at the Keyworth Centre, where she will be delivering a day on "[Leading Collaborative School Improvement](#)". This workshop is a leadership development day aimed at the Lead Reviewers of the 38 schools.

The workshop is centred around three enquiry questions:

- How do we create a collaborative culture that leads to impact?
- How does collaboration strengthen resilience that leads to greater wellbeing and sustainability?
- What leadership do we need to model in order to enable this, individually and collectively?

In the workshop, participants will be introduced to a set of 'Collaborative Practice Insights' that SPP have developed with partnerships of schools involved in the programme.



We are delighted to share with you the first KYRA SPP Peer Review Case Study, which details the ongoing collaborative work between two of the schools who have continued to work together alongside the Phase 2 peer review cycle. Their journey highlights the power of co-incidental learning during the peer review process and how layers of mutual learning present themselves when we open our doors to other schools.

## KYRA SPP (School Partnership Programme) Peer Review Case Study One

### Schools

Frances Olive Anderson CE Primary,  
Headteacher, Sarah Woolley

Dunholme St Chad's Church of  
England Primary School,  
Headteacher, Trish Ruff

Frances Olive Anderson and Dunholme St Chad's have been involved in a KYRA SPP peer review triad with Birchwood Junior School since September 2021. This case study is a reflection from Trish and Sarah on their collaborative learning throughout the year and to share their intentions on continuing this journey, in addition to the new peer review partnerships that they and their schools will each forge in Phase Two: Embedding, which began in September 2022.

### We asked Trish, how did the SPP framework support the peer review process?

Initially, we were looking at our peer review focus being around spelling, as we had just embedded Read, Write, Inc. and so it felt the natural next step to our school improvement journey. Our first review visit however, was to Birchwood Junior School, where the school's line of enquiry focus was around spelling. On spending a day at Birchwood, we realised that our action plan for spelling was already strongly in place, validated by seeing the school improvement strategy around spelling that Birchwood was effectively implementing.

As a Leadership Team, we subsequently reflected on our line of enquiry to focus on our 3-dimensional curriculum, and the golden thread of equality and diversity. Although we have strong and well embedded policies for SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural) and EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion), on paper, we weren't sure how explicit they were in our overall practice. We wanted to ensure all staff had a shared understanding and articulation of these key aspects, which run through our curriculum, and the significance of them.

The pre-review meeting was essential in fine tuning our question for the review day, and Sarah skillfully mirrored our thinking and helped us to arrive at a very specific line of enquiry: to what extent does our school vision, values and curriculum intent embed the understanding of equality and diversity to promote inclusivity across the school?

Because our schools are both Church of England primaries, and Frances Olive Anderson is also focusing on embedding this area of SMSC, the collaborative opportunity that the peer review experience afforded us, was to continue to work together. Examples of such deeper collaboration are:

- we share our collective worship planning and resources;
- a Year 3 ECT (Early Career Teacher) at Frances Olive Anderson has been able to work alongside an experienced Year 3 teacher at Dunholme St Chad's to coach and support through observing one another's lessons.

We will continue to work together on our shared journey over the next year, whilst also working with new schools in our Phase 2 peer review triad.

### We asked Sarah, how has the KYRA SPP Peer Review process supported new learning and enriched collaborative opportunities at Frances Olive Anderson?

Our line of enquiry has been focused on provision for our pupil premium children. It was therefore an excellent partnership being in a triad with Birchwood Junior School as the school has carried out some excellent school improvement strategies to support provision for disadvantaged children. We were able to gain new ideas and new learning from the review day at Birchwood which, whilst co-incidental to the dedicated focus of their review line of enquiry, has been excellent to bring back to France Olive Anderson. Supporting Dunholme St Chad's in fine tuning their line of enquiry around SMSC felt very contextually relevant and mutually supportive to both our Church of England schools. One take-away I have from the review day at Dunholme St Chad's is that when we carry out book looks at Frances Olive Anderson, we will always ask the children to bring their books with them. It is a much-valued opportunity for pupils' voices to be heard, something that we are constantly looking to increase.

Going forward, the schools will continue to work together on their shared SMSC journey, and the collaboration between the Year 3 teachers will sustain connectivity and mutual support between both schools. It is fantastic to hear of the impact of KYRA schools' collaboration through SPP Peer Review for these schools.

We look forward to hearing more from them as their journey continues, and to featuring further case studies in the termly Newsletter.

### KYRA Kids Council Impact and Updates



To be truly ambitious for children, the KYRA Alliance must ensure the connections we build have children at the centre, and we pride ourselves as a collective of schools who prioritise pupil voice. With the current challenges facing our society including climate change, sustainability, and political uncertainty, it is vital that our pupils are the change agents needed to shape their future and the world for generations to come. We are proud to have established in 2014 the KYRA Kids' Council that has now expanded to regional hubs. The KYRA Kids' Council has been and is an opportunity for collaboration across the alliance, with curriculum enrichment activities, increased opportunities, and a platform for pupil voice across different school contexts.

### Regional KYRA Kids' Councils Leaders

- East – Sue Belton, Willoughby St Helena's CofE Primary School
- Gainsborough – Luke Lovelidge, Benjamin Adlard Primary School
- Lincoln – Theresa Peacock, Monks Abbey Primary School
- South – Tracy Boulter, Welbourn CofE Primary School
- Boston – Nicola Ingamells, Hawthorne Tree Primary School

At the 2022 KYRA Development Day, Luke Lovelidge, Headteacher of Benjamin Adlard Primary School in Gainsborough, shared his experience as a regional coordinator and the real impact of this strand of activity.



“The KYRA Kids’ Council embodies everything an education system should be – it gives children a voice in school development. The council provides the pupils with a sense of responsibility, but also an enthusiasm and motivation for learning and working with others and contributing ideas to their own schools.

It’s been great to see children, who have only known each other for a matter of minutes, interacting and engaging in purposeful discussions about the things they like about the host school for that meeting, whilst also identifying ways to make it an even better place to learn, based on their experiences within their own schools. Providing the KYRA Kids’ Council with a platform to share their wisdom, thoughts and views is something, among many other things, that makes the KYRA Alliance a unique and welcoming beacon.”



### Gainsborough KYRA Kids’ Council Summer 2022

A shared experience from London to Gainsborough, through connections with Anthem School Trust

On Wednesday 13th July, school council representatives from Benjamin Adlard Primary School, Scotter Primary School and Frances Olive CE Primary School visited London. The day started with a successful train journey to Kings Cross which was a highlight for some of the children as it was their first time on a train. We were met at the train station by Vicki Briody, Headteacher of Abacus Belsize Primary School, and a few pupils who acted as tour guides as they took us on a leisurely walk to their school. Upon arrival, we were shown around the school and looked at some of the differences an inner-city school has to offer their pupils. There were opportunities for all school councils to collaborate and discuss ways they could use ideas from each other to improve their own school.

Following the visit to Abacus Belsize Primary School, we took the underground to the Tower Bridge (thank you Mr Cook for your amazing navigation skills on the underground). We toured the Tower of London, where all the children got the chance to look at the Crown Jewels and the Torture of Tower Exhibition. This was an amazing afternoon that the children who took part will never forget! This visit showed the power and impact KYRA Kids can have on children. All three schools found the opportunities to collaborate with a school from a different area hugely beneficial and have taken some great ideas back to their own schools.

Luke Lovelidge,  
Headteacher, Benjamin Adlard Primary School

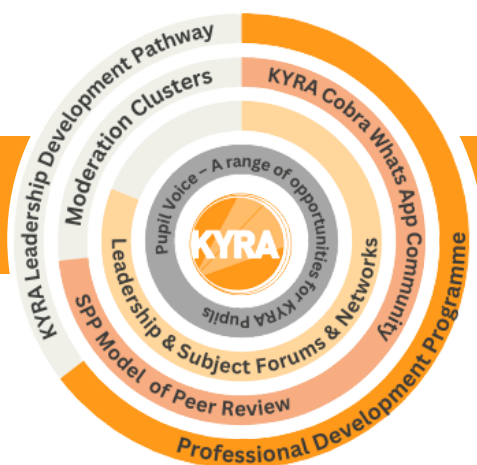
### Lincolnshire South Regional KYRA Kids' Council Autumn 2022 Black History Month and connecting through art

On Friday 14th October, we had our very first KYRA South Kids meeting at Welbourn CE Primary School. We played a few games to get to know each other and then voted on what type of activity we would like to do. The theme was 'Black History Month' and the children decided that they would like to raise awareness by creating a display in their own schools. The children used books and iPads to find images, facts, and quotes for their displays, they created lettering and planned how they would make the displays interactive. All the schools that attended received a book to use as part of their display.

The children then created some art in the style of Lois Mailou Jones and set up an art competition to take back to their own schools. The School Council members will choose a winner per year group. On Friday 4th November, we will share our art and then choose an overall winner who will receive an 'artists pack of treats' and have their art shared in the KYRA magazine. We will also share photographs of our school displays.

Our next KYRA Kids' meeting will take place at Barkston and Syston Primary School; we are looking forward to reviewing aspects of school life as the year progresses and taking part in a range of activities.

Tracy Boulter  
Headteacher, Welbourn CE Primary School



## Connect & Engage

### Visit the Digital Notice Board

[https://padlet.com/enquiries110/KYRA\\_Notice\\_Board](https://padlet.com/enquiries110/KYRA_Notice_Board)

An easy place to find news, updates and opportunities. Including events coming up within the term.

All events including information and booking links can be found at the KYRA website in the "Whats On" section [kyrateachingschool.com/whats-on](http://kyrateachingschool.com/whats-on)

#### Professional Development

Booking Open for :

- Great Curriculum in Primary Schools
- Fierce and Courageous Conversations
- Event Co-ordinator Training

#### Leadership & Subject Forums

- Maths Forums
- Science Forums
- Heads' Forums
- Governor Forum



