

Embedding Formative Assessment

A two-year professional development programme for all schools and colleges that has been independently proven to increase student achievement developed by SSAT.

This programme will embed formative assessment in your classrooms and across your entire school by changing your teachers' habits and behaviours.

Designed in collaboration with Professor Dylan Wiliam and Siobhan Leahy, this cost-effective, two-year programme - which is suitable for Primary, Secondary and Special Schools- will:

- Positively impact on learner outcomes, as evidenced by the EEF's report (February 2019) which found that learners in EFA schools made the equivalent of two months' additional progress in the Attainment 8 GCSE score.
- Improve teaching and learning across your entire school by empowering your teachers to develop their practice through trialling and refining formative assessment strategies.
- Increase engagement in your learners who will support each other and take responsibility for their own learning through peer and self-review techniques.

The Embedding Formative Assessment programme is focused on improving outcomes through the development of teaching. Learn Sheffield is working in partnership with SSAT and Hunter's Bar Junior School to support a group of six Sheffield schools and academies to access this two year programme.

Hunter's Bar Junior have devoted eleven years to the development of formative assessment in their school, using the Embedding Formative Assessment programme. They are now recognised as an EF Ambassador School through the SSAT and have two trained EFA Mentors who support other schools for the full two years of the programme.

Michael Watson (HT of Hunter Bar Junior) and Kelly Hersey (DHT) will support Sheffield primary schools and academies and SSAT will provide additional mentors if the group includes other sectors.

The cost of the programme to Sheffield Schools and academies is being heavily subsidised (by more than 50% of the usual cost) by Learn Sheffield. Any Sheffield school or academy will pay £1000 pa for the two years of the programme (i.e. £2000 in total).

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6 Schools
Dec 20 - Dec 22



How does it work?

The programme builds on over 10 years of research by Dylan Wiliam and Siobhan Leahy who originally designed the Embedding Formative Assessment resource using evidence to show that formative assessment can improve students' learning. We know that many schools already prioritise formative assessment, but realise that it can be challenging to implement and difficult to effect a long-term change in teacher behaviour.

Through monthly workshops, known as Teacher Learner Communities (TLC), groups of teachers focus on key formative assessment strategies and techniques that could be implemented in their classroom and feedback on the impact of techniques previously experimented with. Plus, in between the workshop sessions, teachers are encouraged to conduct peer lesson observations and provide feedback to each other regularly.

Over a sustained period, this leads to whole-school impact as the TLC model provides support and accountability, and the regularity of the meetings supports a change in classroom habits which permeates throughout the school with conversations in staff rooms, classroom drop-ins and regular peer observation and review.



The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) Project

In 2015, the EEF funded SSAT to implement the Embedding Formative Assessment programme in 140 schools over a two-year period. Research findings showed that:

- Learners made the equivalent of two months' progress in their Attainment 8 GCSE score.
- Learners in the lowest third for prior attainment made more progress than their classmates in the top third.
- Teachers were positive about the Teacher Learning Communities. They felt that these improved their practice by allowing valuable dialogue between teachers, and encouraged experimentation with formative assessment strategies.

Visit the SSAT website to find out more – including the 'Trialled and Tested' podcast, case studies, sample materials and available support.

<https://www.ssatuk.co.uk/cpd/teaching-and-learning/embedding-formative-assessment/>

