



## DEVELOPING SKILLS IN LESSON OBSERVATION

**COURSE TUTOR: Mike Phipps**

### **COURSE DETAIL**

Lesson observations form a key part of two of the most important school-based activities:

1. To enable leaders at all levels, but especially at senior level, understand the quality of teaching and learning on a day-to-day basis in classrooms in their schools.
2. To provide the analysis and feedback to support continuous improvements in the quality of teaching and learning for all teaching staff and for pupils.

Hence, getting lesson observations right both in terms of a lesson observation strategy and the sharpness and precision of observations are highly important to the leadership of teaching and learning. Ofsted inspectors will want to know how well the school understands the quality of teaching and learning, how it knows this and how analysis of first hand evidence is helping to identify improvement strategies.

### **Who is the course suitable for?**

This course is aimed at senior and middle leaders in schools, including headteachers, governors, deputy and assistant headteachers, phase and year leaders, subject leaders, special educational needs co-ordinators and inclusion co-ordinators.

### **By the end of the day, delegates will:**

- Gain a greater appreciation of how classroom observation supports school improvement and sharpens the leadership of teaching and learning
- Develop a strategic approach to classroom observation
- Understand how to make sharp and incisive assessments of the quality of teaching and learning - in particular in impact of teaching on learning
- Practise, and hence develop, skills in classroom observation
- Develop skills in making evaluative notes during observation and using these to provide clear and constructive written feedback
- Develop skill and confidence in preparing and providing constructive feedback
- Identify how to collate and analyse findings from lesson observations to feedback into planning for improvement including identifying appropriate professional development activities.

## **PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY**

**9am – 4pm**

***Lunch will be provided and is normally taken at 1pm***

**AM:** The morning session will focus on setting the context for lesson observations and look at strategies for setting up regular observations as well as the relative merits of different types of observations in meeting defined needs. There will be opportunities to consider the criteria for observation and to make use of Ofsted criteria to assess the quality of teaching and learning. Video clips will be used to help delegates hone and develop their observation skills.

**PM:** The afternoon session will be used to help delegates think about the best methods of recording observations and how to use these to extract vital information about the relative strengths and weaknesses in teaching and learning in their own schools. Time will also be spent on developing quality feedback to individuals to those being observed to improve their practice. A final session on how observations support the leadership of teaching will look at future planning and use of professional development to improve teaching and learning.

## **COURSE TUTOR**

Mike Phipps has over 25 years' teaching and leadership experience in state secondary schools as a Humanities specialist, including 13 years as Assistant Head, Deputy Head and Headteacher. He is now an educational consultant, trainer and inspector. He has been an Ofsted inspector since 2008 and works as Lead Inspector and Team Inspector in secondary and primary schools, including the Early Years Foundation Stage, and carries out inspections of schools causing concern. He has inspected schools overseas and he acts as mentor to new inspectors. He carries out pre-inspection reviews of schools and subject areas, and he has trained school staff, senior leaders and governors in school self-evaluation, lesson observation skills and in preparing for inspection.