

Let's  
imagine...



**...cultures of achievement  
...students designing the curriculum  
...community practitioners**

**imagine**





# Next Practice...

## ...in Communities for Learning

Across the country today, as schools are extending their services and moving towards personalising learning for students of all ages, the schools' workforce is also transforming and developing. Teachers, students, non-teaching staff and the wider community are working together to identify creative and innovative ways to meet the needs of 21st century learners.

In this project, The Innovation Unit and our partner, the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA), are looking beyond current workforce remodelling. We're identifying Next Practice ideas which consider new sources of support for children's learning – within and beyond the school. At the heart of the project is a question about the kinds of skills, strategies and expertise that the teacher will need in order to use this extended workforce – and the implications of these new ways of working for the teacher's professional role and responsibilities.

Between May 2007 and March 2008, 11 field trials across the country are exploring new models in Communities for Learning to transform education for all.



# Let's imagine cultures of achievement

A partnership between Tower Hamlets Council, Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the housing company Poplar HARCA (Housing and Regeneration Community Association), has envisioned a transformation of St Paul's Way Community School. This school is central to the vision of a new **St Paul's Way** 'urban village', which is being wholly rebuilt under the Tower Hamlets Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. The trial will draw upon the work of the Bromley By Bow Centre as it rethinks the roles of health, youth, housing and education workers in relation to the emerging St Paul's Way campus. Facilitating community engagement between the school and the 'street' will ensure that participants make an identifiable and significant contribution to the creation of a new campus and a new sense of 'place' in St Paul's Way.

In a two-year partnership between five New York and five London schools, the **Transatlantic Schools Alliance** aims to involve students and teachers in improving literacy through sharing strategies, approaches and learning in different contexts. This will include joint CPD, co-creation of resources for learning through virtual conferences and face to face communication. The overall aim of the field trial is to generate knowledge about how different cultures in different contexts can support each other in the creation of an achievement culture, and the strategies and practices that may contribute to closing the achievement gap.

## A field trial based in Wakefield seeks to map the interface between health, education and social care services.

By training school staff to develop some of the skills normally associated with social care, the trial hopes to explore the reality of integrated practice and the potential to engage very hard-to-reach families. The trial will enable the two schools involved to access a wider range of skills and approaches to overcome barriers to learning, and support some of the lower achieving children in the district. It will also help build relationships between staff working in different agencies by beginning to tackle the different values, skills and approaches across different professions.

# Let's imagine students designing the curriculum

Students, staff and parents of six schools in Sunderland, facilitated by **Creative Partnerships** will re-imagine 21st century schooling. Students will be given a budget to spend on an independent, student-led 'learning state'. Schools will draw on community skills to amend the content of the curriculum to reflect the students' ideas. Further south, students at **Chalvedon School and Sixth Form College** will develop a sustainable scheme which identifies and draws on the 'life skills' within their community and each other. They have designed and will lead the trial's skills-for-life workshops which will focus on 'learning how to build relations with a community', expanding on issues taught in the classroom. In another field trial in the south-east, **The Young Foundation** supports the integration of two FE colleges in Luton and London into operating businesses largely run by the students themselves. The concept of 'Studio Schools', starting with around 60 disengaged and/or entrepreneurial learners, will be based on a full-time business environment. The students will have personalised learning plans that embed formal and professional qualifications and non-cognitive skills in project-based learning.



**Curriculum development is the focus for five schools in Suffolk and Essex, which will explore the engagement of a community (of artists, parents and teachers) in growing 'food for a feast' over a period of a year.**

The **Eastfeast** trial will establish integrated roles for a range of local community practitioners and providers, by testing different learning practices and approaches with the schools. This integrated approach to curriculum design and delivery will use expertise from the arts community, the local community and the schools' workforce to develop Next Practice learning spaces, enabling all to share and co-create new possibilities for learning and teaching. Members of the business community are also sought as partners in the learning process.

# Let's imagine community practitioners

**Caslon Primary Community School** in Dudley is creating a network of National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) accredited Community Learning Partners (CLP). These CLPs (adults from the community and young people) will work across the local area to support family learning opportunities. The trial aims to see teachers utilised as directors of learning beyond the school. In London, **Ealing Council** will work with three primary schools in Northolt. New Branching-out Co-ordinators within each school will develop a parental induction programme as part of pupil registration and work with influential parents to identify existing and potential skills that could be used in the classroom.

Further north, the very small **Armathwaite School** in Cumbria aims to extend its successful 'skills for independent learning' programme into the community, and extend the school into village halls, churches and other community facilities. A learning development worker and a virtual private network are to be set up as community resources for personalised learning.

**Fyndoune Community College** will establish a community stakeholder forum (police, healthcare, fire and prison services, youth offending groups and major local employers) to audit the Key Stage 4 PSHE specification, careers education requirements and the moral, philosophical and cultural syllabus. The new learning programme will be delivered by community trainers and via a school business in which students will be employed.



# Next Practice for a changing world

None of us knows what the future holds, but we can work to shape that future, to ensure that, as far as possible, what happens is what we want to happen. The Innovation Unit is working with teachers and education leaders to help them to respond to this challenge. The Innovation Unit's main programme, Next Practice, champions practitioner-led innovation to tackle key challenges facing education today.

Next Practice is keenly aware of conventional good practice, but sets out to move it to a new level. Some Next Practice projects may involve use of the Power to Innovate legislation, in order to improve standards. This enables the setting aside of regulation when there is a strong case that it inhibits innovation. The Next Practice in Communities for Learning project is the third Next Practice project launched by The Innovation Unit. The other Next Practice projects being developed are:

- System Leadership
- Resourcing Personalisation
- Parents and Schools Working Together

More details about these projects are available on The Innovation Unit's website: [www.innovation-unit.co.uk](http://www.innovation-unit.co.uk).

## Join the Community of Interest about Next Practice

We are inviting education professionals across the country to register their interest in this work. If you want to be kept in touch with how the Next Practice projects develop, you can join our Community of Interest. You can then read regular updates on how field trial projects are progressing, access new publications and development tools, and visit the field trial projects themselves, to see innovation in action. You may also get the opportunity to develop your own pilot project, with support from The Innovation Unit.

Join the Community of Interest now by e-mailing your contact details to: [nextpractice@innovation-unit.co.uk](mailto:nextpractice@innovation-unit.co.uk).

(Please state which Next Practice project you are interested in.)