

Specialist Leader of Education Personal Profile

Tracy Edwards

School:	Swiss Cottage School Development & Research Centre
Leadership role:	Leader for Curriculum and Assessment
Type:	Special School
Education Phase:	Special
Area of expertise:	Leadership of Curriculum, Religious Education, and Health & Wellbeing

Profile:

Tracy is on the extended Leadership Team at an all-age (2-19) Special Needs School, which takes in learners from the full range of SEN (Moderate Learning Difficulties, Severe Learning Difficulties and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties). In this role, she leads on a range of curriculum innovations, including the development of alternative subject areas and approaches, which address particular SEN needs. In addition, she also leads and teaches PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education) and aspects of the SMSC (Spiritual, Social, Moral and Cultural) dimension.

The majority of Tracy's Special school experience has been as a Class Teacher of groups of secondary-aged learners, with Moderate Learning Difficulties and/or Social Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties, working broadly between P7 and National Curriculum Level 3. She therefore has skills in adapting primary numeracy and literacy strategies, for adolescents.

Before working in Special Education, Tracy was a secondary teacher for ten years, until 2009. For the last five of these years, she was Head of Humanities, leading a very large Faculty with a vast Post-16 offer. As a Head of Humanities, she specialised in teaching GCSE Religious Studies, AS/A2 Philosophy and Ethics, and BTEC Health and Social Care.

In addition, throughout her career, Tracy has had a strong professional interest in the international dimension in education. Tracy has a MA in Education, Gender and International Development (Distinction Classification) and has been funded by the London Challenge to undertake consultancy work in rural South Africa. She has had much experience in leading global school partnerships and working with international non-governmental organisations to support the development of their education programmes.

Area of Expertise:

- Strategic curriculum planning, and policy development, for special educational settings;
- Sex and Relationships Education;
- Philosophy for Children;
- Mapping, auditing and evaluating the Spiritual Moral, Social and Cultural dimension to education;

- Designing bespoke programmes for learners with specific difficulties in mainstream settings, including those who may also be gifted and talented;
- Values education and teaching approaches to support dispositions for learning and overall wellbeing;
- Exploring new solutions to “bridge” special and mainstream education; and
- The Global Dimension in Education and school linking.