

STANDARDS FUND: ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION
Developing Inclusive Practice: The Role of the SENCO and Inclusion
Managers'**

(Offered subject to confirmation of Standard's Fund funding for 2008/2009)

The Norfolk LA is pleased to offer a limited number of funded places for teachers, SENCOs, Inclusion Managers and other interested educational professionals.

A one-year research-based course provided by the University of East Anglia which is suitable for practising primary or secondary teachers employed by Norfolk County Council on a full-time basis. It is designed primarily for SENCOs and Inclusion Managers, although it will be useful for other staff.

Successful completion will qualify you for a Post-graduate Certificate. This is the equivalent of a third of an MA in Advanced Educational Practice.

The course will run between autumn 2008 and summer 2009, and will involve attendance at the UEA on ten twilight and five whole-day sessions, dates to be advised.

Aims of the course

Through school-based inquiry, to assist SENCOs, teachers and other professionals:

- Use their knowledge and understanding of a wide range of pupil diversity both within and outside schools to develop the social, physical, cognitive, emotional and behavioural development of pupils;
- Develop through investigation and evaluation of their own or their school's practice, improved means of responding to the needs of pupils, to ensure that they all have access to their curriculum entitlement.

Objectives of the course

To support course participants in understanding and developing:

- The strategic direction and development of individual provision for pupil's specific learning needs in schools
- Teaching and learning
- Management of change
- The efficient and effective deployment of staff and resources
- A deeper understanding of the nature and scope of 'Inclusion' in the wider educational context.

Continued

Content

The course builds on the existing professional knowledge and understanding of professionals, their skills and attributes in relation to decision making, problem solving, leadership skills, professional competence, and their expertise and knowledge of the range of teaching resources and techniques appropriate for all pupils particularly those with individual learning needs. School-based enquiry will be used as a basis to investigate and make changes and improvements in policies and practices concerning 'Inclusion'. These could include, for example:

- The day to day operation of the school's inclusion/special needs policy
- Liaising with and advising colleagues
- Co-ordinating provision for pupils with individual learning needs
- Maintaining the school's SEN register and records on all pupils
- Contributing to the professional development of colleagues
- The changing role of support staff in special needs or Inclusion
- Working with external/multi agencies

These areas will be developed through:

- Practical workshops on practice- and school-based enquiry
- Seminars and guided reading
- Lectures on themes and issues identified in the practice of the above
- Seminars for participants on the school-based enquiry/research project. It is expected also that an executive summary of the work undertaken will be presented to the participant's school

The philosophy underlying the course is that of investigation and reflection in practice. By this we mean that the professional through investigation and reflection upon his or her own practice is able to generate insights and strategies that will enable him or her to gain greater control, self-confidence and expertise in handling and improving work situations. Through the vehicle of research-based studies, the practitioner is able to generate theories, validating courses of action and supporting or arguing against particular policies or practices. In short, the philosophy underlying the course is to support and promote the development of renewed professional action.

There is an expectation that schools and candidates agreeing to be funded for an Advanced Professional Qualification will complete the course once it has started. In exceptional circumstances a replacement candidate could be substituted prior to the start of the course. Places are limited to one per school and those schools not previously represented on the course will be given priority.

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How to apply

To apply for funding please complete and return a standard Professional Development Centre Booking form by the **31st May 2008** to Michelle Steel, Professional Development Centre, Woodside Road, Norwich, NR7 9QL or fax 01603 700236.

If you are selected for funding you will be sent a UEA application form which you will need to send directly to the UEA by 7th September 2008. Further details will be forwarded to you, if you are accepted for funding, as soon as they become available. Schools that attend are provided with £500 for supply cover.

Places will be limited to one per school in the first instance and priority will be given to those schools not previously represented on the course.

If you require further information about the course content, assignments, assessment, etc please contact:

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