

Further, the Askit strand provides excellent opportunities for working to deepen children's language, a key issue for communities with high deprivation and poor home language.

The Askit approach works well in the school with its high mobility (something possibly accentuated by current social policy) as it helps to sustain a strong school community.

The school works hard on class building, where Askit is used to develop positive relationships and values such as respect and mutual cooperation. Teachers described Askit as *'time to think'*.

Open Futures has also created opportunities for developing and growing leaders at Brookfields School. It has also been a key platform for staff development. This means that staff development is clearly focused on pupil need. Furthermore, TAs are included in professional development opportunities as well as teachers. The school has adopted model good practice in maximising the impact of teaching assistants, ensuring they have opportunities to take part in staff meetings, training sessions and more.

Brookfields Primary School is able to achieve these things because of its unrelenting focus on pupil need. Whether it is curriculum design, enrichment, community building, tackling disadvantage or staff development, the focus on pupil need is clear. The Open Futures programme, with its core principles and adaptability fit perfectly with this clarity of vision.

Independent Assessment

Marc Rowland, Deputy Director, National Education Trust, December 2015