



Getting Started with Peer Observation

The Benefits of Peer Observation

Interviewee

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Teaching School Director

What are the benefits of peer observation?

You're working with peers, it's a collabora- ... you know, a collaboration. It's ... you're opening up discussions, learning conversations. You're also having an insight into another teacher's world, their work, their ethos, their agency. I do believe, when I was part of the peer observation programme, I ended up speaking to other teachers that I wouldn't have necessarily ended up working or speaking to or collaborating with, and I do think that crossed subject is really important. But I equally think that peer observation can work for departments, so it gets departments talking, and ... but maybe external people coming in from other schools, that takes peer observation to a different level where you can actually be then using your peer observation and doing what we call within a teaching school sense is school to school support which can be ... works with the peer observations.

What difference did peer observation make to your practice?

Peer observation made a difference to my learners in that I became much more confident. The confidence in presenting in front of them was really, really much, much more. There was more energy, there was more enthusiasm, it reinvigorated enthusiasm, and it reinvigorated my passion to make a difference to my own practice but to their learning.

What is a potential pitfall of peer observation?

The other thing is, is commitment. If people commit to observing they need to schedule this into their calendars and their timetable and value that time, and see that time as being really, really important time, and that doesn't always happen. Some people think oh, it's just the peer observation and see other things, so it will fall down the list of importance. I think from experience in the value of peer observation I would say to others avoid that pitfall. Once that date is in the diary it's as important as you teaching the lesson that you have to teach because it's for you, you know, this is purely for your professional development and for reflective time, and for two people to be involved in that process.