

How do we know it works?

Learning outcomes are at least good in all member schools.

Teachers tell us they are benefitting from collaborative working.

Children tell us they enjoy and learn from collaborative projects.

Heads feel properly supported and accountable to someone.

We have procured services more cheaply.

Other schools want to join us.

It feels right - our group has a heart.

What about the future?

We are prepared for the academy agenda.

Joint practice development should become embedded and expected.

Children should expect and look forward to time spent in other schools.

Governors have real understanding of why we are working together and are proactive in working to strengthen the BeSKiLD Group.

Increase capacity to support schools outside the Group.



The BeSkilled Trust

Oxley Belton St Botolphs Long Whatton Diseworth

'From individual character and expertise comes collective strength and excellence'



Providing for our pupils by providing for ourselves.

BeSKiLD beginnings

We were originally four Headteachers, now 5, with a shared drive, ethos and outlook.

We gave a moral commitment to work together for the good of all the schools within the group.

We felt vulnerable as single schools.

We needed an external view of our schools.

Without the LA we needed new accountabilities.

We wanted a strong peer support structure.

We needed to achieve age range change and respond to the pressure to become academies.

What is the BeSKiLD Group?

It is small enough to get things done.

It is a platform for holding each other to account.

It provides a close support network for Heads.

It provides and helps to procure resources.

It is a vehicle for open, honest and direct discussion in a climate of professional and personal trust.

It is a vehicle for bringing together children, practitioners, and Governors in order to learn from each other.

Why is it so important?

Together we are stronger in an uncertain future.

We can maintain our individuality but benefit from the strengths of others.

It enables greater capacity and sustainability.

It brings our staff and children together.

It requires Heads and Governors to completely commit.

We are answerable to each other.

It will enable us to control our own futures.

How does it work?

It is driven by the Headteachers, who talk and meet regularly to ensure we move forward together.

There is an annual plan, which is closely monitored.

There are regular learning walks involving all Heads which are subsequently followed up.

There is professional development for all staff.

There are collaborative learning projects for all children.

There are termly reports to Governors.

What the BeSKiLD Group isn't... Cosy.