

An e-module & masterclass series

School Improvement Masterclass Series 2014-1025

School Improvement and Effective Schools

A masterclass by Prof Alma Harris 2nd October 2014: Hampshire

"The world is far too complex for any one individual to effect or lead real change; every individual has to ask for help and for other eyes, ears and intellects to join them. This can only be achieved by creating real and often courageous conversations."

David White: Institute for Conversational Leadership

School Improvement is now everybody's business and yes this means that every teacher, every school leader, every head teacher, every governor has to ask for help, for other eyes, other ears, and other intellects to join them to deliver on School Improvement. Prof Alma Harris has explored this in her work on Distributed Leadership.

So how can groups of connected and engaged teachers drive and sustain change and school improvement within and between schools that can impact on the performance of students, the school as a whole and the wider community? Prof Alma Harris's work has shown that school improvement approaches which cultivate professional learning communities, can improve student achievement. Her work has provided considerable evidence on the relationship between leadership and school improvement. It emphasises the importance of maximising the leadership capabilities of all those within the organization and offers guidance about the way in which this can be achieved.

- So what form of leadership promotes school improvement?
- How can schools build leadership capacity that can impact on school improvement and school effectiveness?
- How can schools sustain improvement in what are in effect changing times and with ever increasing expectations?



Prof Alma Harris is now Director of the Institute of Educational Leadership at the University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. She was formerly Professor and Pro-Director (Leadership) at the Institute of Education, London. Her research work focuses on organizational change and development. She is internationally known for her work on school improvement, focusing particularly on improving schools in challenging circumstances.

Alma has written extensively about leadership in schools and she is an expert on the theme of distributed leadership. Her book 'Distributed Leadership in Schools: Developing the Leaders of Tomorrow' (published in 2008 by Routledge & Falmer Press) has been translated into several languages. She was seconded to the 'Welsh Assembly Government' as a Professional Adviser and is currently assisting with the process of system wide reform. She is President Elect of the 'International Congress of School Effectiveness and School Improvement' and has taken up her Presidency at the 26th International Congress in Chile in 2013. Her new book on Uplifting Leadership was published by Jossey-Bass/John Wiley in July 2014.

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