



Laura Ovenden

Evidence Lead in Education (ELE)



I have taught English for over 20 years at tertiary, secondary and primary levels in both the UK and abroad and I have always been interested in empowering teachers to make good decisions in their classrooms. I have a PhD from Nottingham University in German Literature and have published academic research papers.

Before moving to the North West seven years ago, I was Head of English at a boys' comprehensive in London and I now teach children and support teachers in two primary schools in Yorkshire. My areas of specialism are grammar teaching, vocabulary acquisition, reading, writing, SLCN training and my cross-phase experience.

In my present roles I am involved in coaching and mentoring staff as well as leading CPD in English and SLCN. I am a trained ELKAN tutor and run courses with a retired SaLT improving teachers and teaching assistants knowledge of speech, language and communication needs in the classroom. I also support parents to understand how to help their children learn. In addition I oversee the use of high-quality targeted support to help children who may struggle with early literacy.

In the past I have been involved in evidence-based research projects such as Grammar for Writing, meta-cognition and self-regulation, SCLN and the Power of Poetry with the CLPE. Being a member of professional bodies whether NATE, LATE, UKLA or the Chartered College of Teaching has always been important to me as a way of developing my professional knowledge. I run a National Writing Project teachers' writing group and a Halifax-based teachers as readers group, supported by the Open University and the UKLA. Providing grass-roots support networks for teachers is something I am passionate about.

Working as an ELE for Aspirer Teaching Alliance gives me the opportunity to demonstrate my commitment to supporting teacher development and school improvement in all contexts and cross-phase.