

# Leading in the new era: Headteacher's reflection

I joined the project with an open mind and no real expectations but with a wish to delve deeper into the aspect of leading in the current situation and how this would not only impact on our communities at the current time but also how the situation would impact in the future for all members of the community.

I found the project to be very enlightening from a personal perspective. Meeting with peers and reflecting up on my own practice, beliefs and philosophy was a tough but enjoyable experience. Penetrating questions by the project lead and our ability to share our views, feelings and experiences within a safe environment allowed me to explore concepts and aspects that I would normally fleetingly rush through as I focused on the day to day operations of the school.

I found the project very beneficial in that it allowed me to consider the purpose of my leadership; the role that I played within the community; the importance of the school in serving not only the children but the local community as a whole; the national narrative in relation to the purpose of education and how this aligned or where there was dissonance in these. It has allowed me to reflect on what is truly important and vital in education for our children and ensured that I have the courage to follow through on my own convictions in relation to education for our children even when it runs against the national narrative and drive in education.

My own personal learning journey was that of as a community of leaders we are stronger and the ability to interact with others made my own doubts less. Another aspect of personal learning for myself was that we as schools are the lynchpin for our most vulnerable families – that without this constant to aid, guide and advise they would be lost in a system unable to access the help or need required to try to alleviate any difficulties there were currently experiencing. Finally a real learning point for myself was that to find real change within the system it has to be led from a local level, with change driven by ourselves in supportive teams aimed at improving the lives of all our communities families.

**STEPHEN SMITH, HEADTEACHER**  
**BADEN POWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL**