



Our Kagan Cooperative Learning Journey

Debbie Salmon, Deputy Headteacher, Rosendale Primary School

Our Kagan Cooperative Learning journey started back in July 2010 when 4 of our teachers attended the Kagan Summer Academy at Disney World Florida. As one of those teachers, I can say with absolute certainty that we returned home knowing that what we had experienced in those 5 days was about to change our teaching practice forever. We all felt that it was the most influential training in terms of its potential to impact on learning, that we had ever experienced or were ever likely to experience.

A year later and our initial feelings had proved to be correct. I organised for all our teachers to experience Days 1 and 2 of the Kagan Cooperative learning course by arranging for Gavin Clowes of T2TUK/KaganUK to spend two days with us at Rosendale CPS. I applied for and attended the 4 day 'In-School Kagan Trainer' Course led by Laurie Kagan on behalf of Kagan-UK when she was over in the UK. This allowed me to work with teachers on planning and teaching using cooperative structures and on understanding the [PIES](#) principles and their role in increasing attainment and achievement. Three more teachers attended the Cooperative Learning course at the Summer Academy and I was lucky enough to spend 5 days experiencing Kagan Structures for Differentiating Through Multiple Intelligences.

By the beginning of this academic year, September 2011, just over year since the start of our journey, all 23 of our classes from Nursery to Year 6 had cooperative learning teams in place and were using Kagan Structures as part of every lesson. We had produced and published a 'Kagan Requirements' document which detailed what all our teachers committed to delivering based around the '7 Keys to successful Implementation'. In class Kagan Coaching was now based upon improving delivery of the 7 Keys and I was starting to see that Kagan Cooperative Learning had become 'part of what we do' here at Rosendale School.

Since September we have had an adult learning session every three weeks dedicated to Kagan Cooperative Learning. In this we experience new structures and ideas as well as analysing familiar ones. We frequently return to the PIES principles and try to improve on our delivery of the 7 Keys. We have organised information sessions for parents to describe our new ways of learning and classes refer to and document examples of Cooperative Learning on their class blogs. We looked at how we organised assemblies as well as adult meetings in order that we were able to experience the benefits of Kagan Cooperative Learning in all elements of school life.

In November 2011 we had three days of Kagan Coaching delivered by Gavin Clowes of T2TUK/KaganUK. It was so successful and had such immediate impact on our practice that we have another 2 rounds booked in for May 2012 and March 2013. Through individual expert

coaching, teachers had the opportunity to receive real time, valuable feedback to help them improve their delivery of structures. Based on our findings in that first coaching round, we decided to implement a '2 tier approach' to adult learning. Those with least experience will concentrate on the delivery of basic structures, teambuilding, classbuilding and the PIES principles, while those with more experience will look at structure sequences and planning multi-structured lessons.

A few days ago, Gavin returned to deliver Day 3 of the Cooperative Learning course to all teachers. We have Day 4 booked in for November 2012. As a Kagan In-School Trainer I have been able to ensure that any new staff have had the appropriate training; my experience of working as a part time employee of T2TUK has enabled me to gain invaluable experience where this is concerned.

Looking to the future we have much to look forward to with two rounds of coaching and Day 4 Kagan Cooperative Learning on the horizon. Two more teachers are attending the Summer Academy in July and we have a strategic plan to ensure our Kagan journey is ongoing. We have an increasing number of skilled practitioners who are able to work with those less experienced to help them progress.

At Rosendale, our vision is to be relentless in the pursuit of excellence. Adopting Kagan Cooperative Learning as one of our school improvement strategies is helping us to achieve that. In a relatively short time we have completely changed the learning experience for our children and because of it, are raising attainment, closing the achievement gap and making learning more fun and engaging for all.

Debbie Salmon
Deputy Headteacher

Rosendale School is 3 form entry Primary School in South London. It has 700 pupils aged between 3 and 11.

Rosendale Primary School
Rosendale Road
London
SE21 8LR