

**Thematic report title:** *Money Matters: the provision of financial education for seven to 19-year-olds in primary and secondary schools in Wales – May 2011*



## **Blackwood Primary School, Caerphilly**

### **Context**

Blackwood Primary School is a large primary school, situated within the Islwyn region of Caerphilly County Borough Council. There are currently 443 full time equivalent learners on roll and 16% of these learners are entitled to free school meals.

### **Strategy**

The headteacher and deputy headteacher, well-supported by all of the staff organised a detailed programme of carefully planned activities across the curriculum. These activities were planned to develop learners' financial awareness, as well as their knowledge and understanding to make independent and sound financial decisions.

### **Action**

The deputy headteacher attended a financial education training session held by the Welsh Financial Education Unit and funded by the Welsh Assembly Government. On returning to school, arrangements were made for all teachers to receive training, focusing on best practice and developing provision at the school. During the training, teachers discussed how to develop their financial education programme engaging all learners. The Welsh Financial Education Unit identified a range of resources to best suit the school and its learners.

As a result of the training:

- all learners recently participated in a 'Money Week'. At the start of the week, the majority of learners completed a questionnaire to enable teachers to assess their knowledge, skills, and understanding. Teachers used this information to plan a detailed scheme of work and lesson plans and to provide a range of activities undertaken during the 'Money week'; and
- throughout the year a range of additional activities were arranged to support the focus week. These included enterprise events and charity fund raising. The scheme of work allows all teachers to work together effectively to plan for progression. Feedback from learners helps the school to make sure that the activities are challenging and meet their needs.

## **Outcomes**

Learners now have good knowledge of financial matters, for example the importance of saving and of different types of debt and credit. A few older learners have also established a fruit and vegetable co-operative to practise and reinforce their financial education skills within a real day to day context. Many learners share their improved money-management skills with their families and contribute to day-to-day financial decisions.