



Children,  
Families &  
Education  
Directorate



*Children are Leading Learning all the way!*

## CASE STUDY

*“I showed a lady around our model. I showed her the school, Queenborough Castle and the Town Hall.*

*She told me she was helping to build the real building.”*



Queenborough children were actively involved in the Sheppey Bridge Project some time ago, and more recently have been engaged in developing ‘My Kind of Town’

Queenborough children are used to learning through first hand experiences and are regularly given opportunity to develop opinions and make decisions. By Year 4 therefore, children have developed appropriate skills and are well equipped to respond to any opportunity.

**The staff of Queenborough First School have always known that their children learn best when the curriculum is delivered in such a way that subjects are sensibly linked, work has real purpose and the audience is really interested.**

Recent curriculum development has included very successful 'Themed' weeks with each year group learning through an agreed topic for in-depth cross curricular study. The impact of these opportunities was considerable with achievements in reading, writing and maths all improving alongside higher levels of self motivation and engagement. Excitement and enjoyment radiates from all learners.

Queenborough First School responded enthusiastically to the opportunity provided by the Community Project Officer for Queenborough and Rushenden Regeneration.

'This is your chance to shape the future of your community and tell us your views and ideas about the new development proposed' the children were told, and so began a two year ongoing project.

During that period Channel 4's Time Team were researching the site of Queenborough Castle a project which, although taking place during the Summer holidays, fascinated the children. When school resumed the children

became involved in designing the new Queenborough library and a green area which are both on the original castle site.

One outcome of the regeneration work was a 36 piece 3D model of Queenborough measuring 36x36metres. Year 4 children made miniature roads, factories, churches and houses and positioned them on the map they had created to reflect the emerging 'master plan'. Their model was used at Regeneration Public Consultation meetings on many occasions.

*"Work has real purpose and the audience is really interested"*

One of the highlights of recent learning was when the teachers and Year 4 children presented their huge model to David Miliband at The Thames Gateway Forum which was held at the Excel Centre in London's Docklands. 'It's local environment in action' explained the school's Acting Deputy Headteacher ' they can see where they live, learn about local Geography and History, and involve elements of Art and Design Technology'. Apart from Literacy and Numeracy learning opportunities, another outcome was evident when the children were far from over-awed by other exhibitors, TV crews, reporters and aides whilst at the Excel exhibition. They urged any visitor to come and look at their 'Town' and when asked what difference they thought

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regeneration would make they were quite clear – ' Jobs for us in the future!'

One Year 4 child recalled a very special visit to the London Excel Centre writing

'I showed a lady around our model. I showed her the school, Queenborough Castle and the Town Hall. She told me she was helping to build the real building. It was special to me to meet someone so important. She asked me what I wanted to happen in Rushenden and Queenborough. I said I wanted to have some better places for the children and she said she would mention it at her meeting. I gave her a pencil, some mints and a leaflet. I felt grown up.'

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