

AIM Awards Conference Workshop

Working in collaboration: assessment outside the box!

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The VESA AIM Awards Consortium

- At VESA, we have operated an AIM Awards Consortium for over 5 years
- We have had Direct Claims status for 2 years
- Currently, 12 schools from Leicester, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire are members
- For a (modest!) annual fee, we allow schools access to our Centre approval and a comprehensive administration, curriculum support and quality assurance service
- Most schools delivers SEFL and Independent Living through us

- Schools and providers have the choice of regular or enhanced Consortium membership.
- ***Enhanced membership*** (popular with new or less confident centres) are entitled to in-depth guidance regarding qualification choice, qual. make-up, and cpd prior to beginning AIM programmes. They are also entitled to formative assessment workshops, and an internal verification service by VESA staff (including IV of assessment briefs)
- ***All centres, including those with regular membership***, are entitled to full admin, registration moderation and certification services.

- Consortium members are required to attend termly Standardisation Workshops at VESA to which they are required to bring samples of recently IV approved summative assessment briefs and recently assessed student work. These are used as the basis of a peer standardisation process, with VESA staff in support
- Attendance at these workshops is excellent and people enjoy the opportunity to collaborate with each other, compare notes and to share assessment briefs and ideas

- We also have a bank of sample assessment briefs (including AIM Awards samples) on the VESA website and encourage centres to submit briefs for sharing

So, that is what we do.

But the key question is: *what does it all mean?!*

What impact does membership of the Consortium have on the quality of assessment in Consortium Centres?

Activity:

On your table, in two's or three's, discuss and decide what you think are the main characteristics of good summative assessment?

5 minutes only!

Please do not look at the next slide in your packs!

AIM Awards: summative assessments should be:

Open, Transparent, Fair and Inclusive

Continuous

Reliable, Consistent and Rigorous

Relevant and Valid

Sufficient

- and allow learners to produce work that is

Authentic

.... plus one more thing:

Engaging!

Anyone familiar with 'death by assessment booklet' syndrome?!

Well structured assessment booklets can be an excellent vehicle for summative assessments.

They facilitate structured organisation of assessment evidence, allowing for easier assessment, IV and moderation.


However, overuse of booklets can result in a somewhat sterile experience for learners

■ KEY PRINCIPLE:

We actively encourage our Centres to 'think outside the box' when designing summative assessment briefs.

We encourage them to use varied assessment methods, including practical activities, photographic/video evidence, witness statements, projects linking 2 or more units, etc

However, we also ask them to make sure that assessment vehicles are not impossible/inordinately time consuming to assess, IV and moderate!

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- Through our standardisation process, we encourage the sharing of good assessment practice between Centres
 - 60% of our Centres are Special Schools, delivering L1 and E1 – E3 level qualifications.

Because of the nature of their learners, these schools have developed innovative assessment methods which play to the learner's strengths and in which they are not limited by limitations in communication and literacy skills

Activity:

Copies of randomly selected assessments are available on tables

Working in two's or three's, take a look at one of them (or if time, more than one), and discuss the following :

- **How effective is the assessment vehicle used in fulfilling all of the requirements of the unit?**
- **Do you think that the assessment process prescribed by the assessment vehicle was engaging and enjoyable for the students?**
- **In what ways can you suggest that the assessment vehicle could be improved?**



Thank you very much for participating!

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