

A Day at the DCSF

On 16th October 2008, I spent the day shadowing John Edmunds, the Head of Work Related Learning (WRL) policy at the DCSF.

The first surprise was the building: an unprepossessing façade gives way to a TARDIS-like, enormous, glass interior with open plan offices housing everyone from junior staff to Permanent Secretaries. "Hot-desking" is the norm, so all make a rush for spaces at 9am.

The second surprise was the pace of work, with back-to-back meetings from 10am to 5pm and only a 20 minute break for a sandwich at lunchtime.

During the day, I sat in on all the meetings, which included a consultant doing a project on evaluating Work Experience; a representative of an organisation hoping to co-ordinate work experience placements in the Department; a catch-up with the Head of PSHE policy and others.

I also sat in on the Divisional meeting and was able to talk about my role in Edmonton County School and answer questions about how WRL policies are being put into effect locally.

John was really helpful & made me feel involved with everything and his team was friendly and welcoming. I am grateful to them and to the EBP for the opportunity to get an insight into the world of policy making.

Sue Hughes
WRL Co-ordinator, Edmonton County School



Sue Hughes pictured with John Edmunds during the day she spent at the DCSF on a Professional Development Placement programme.