

Newman University College: the importance of quality financial education resources



'I can now see how financial education can prepare children for their future. I am really impressed the resources can be used in foundation stage! All the great resources made me feel confident to introduce financial education!'

Trainee Teacher, Newman University College



Key focus

Newman University College decided to develop the teaching of financial education through their BA (Hons) Primary Education Degree and the PGCE primary course primarily through mathematics as a first step. All trainees have core sessions and a specialist module within mathematics, which is where financial education would fit as an everyday application of mathematics.

Approach

The BA Year 1 trainees were given the task to research financial education in their first teaching placement and then were provided with a series of lectures to consolidate their findings and further develop their skills upon returning to university. The PGCE trainees were provided with three sessions to develop their knowledge and capability in financial education, named '**Developing and Utilising Resources within the Classroom**', '**Creativity and Contemporary Issues**' and '**Real and Relevant Maths**'.

A particularly powerful element of all these sessions was the financial education resources that were identified for each of the sessions. For example:

Supporting trainees in preparation for a school based enhancement focus week, where the trainees were required to select a resource and develop a series of activities using the resource. Trainees selected [My Money Week resources](#)

In a lecture named 'Real and Relevant Maths', compiling and using the [primary math minis activities](#) and the [My Money Mathematics resource](#) so that trainees could use these activities as starting points in lesson planning.

Impact

The evaluation and comments from the trainees from these sessions were positive :

- ✓ 89% said they had no knowledge of financial education before the lecture, and after, 89% said they had a lot of knowledge.
- ✓ 96% said they lacked confidence in developing materials and in teaching financial education at the start of the lecture, and at the end, 93% reported that they were very confident now to develop materials and to try out activities in class.

After the positive responses about the available resources a hard copy resource bank was compiled and housed in the Teaching Resource Centre Library for trainees and lecturers to access. Alongside the resources an overview catalogue has been developed for the university intranet so that trainees could research appropriate financial education resources in advance of borrowing them for school placement.

The BA (Hons) Primary Education degree and the PGCE in Primary Education now contain planned opportunities for personal finance education within mathematics with the resources to support this going forward. Newman is now keen to extend the learning to Years 2 and 3 of the BA(Ed) course.



“Definitely feel more confident - the lecture had a great focus on real-life relevance to our lessons”

Trainee Teacher, Newman University College
