




An Introduction to Classroom Observation and Peer Support

Module 1

Monday 26 March 8.30am to 4.00pm
Friday 30 March 8.30 to 4.00 pm

The program is led by John Hogan and Steve Miolin.




An exciting collegial teacher development program that helps teachers explore new ways to continually deepen their understanding of what is happening in their classrooms, and support them to use these insights to improve student learning.

Understanding Teaching Series



Redgum
consulting



It is teachers who, in the end, will change the world of the classroom by understanding it.

Lawrence Stenhouse¹

Personal reflection on our experience is how we learn from experience. Reflection contributes to the refinement of subsequent action and to the building of a repertoire of professional craft knowledge. And, of course, reflecting on practice – by observing practice, by writing about practice, by engaging in conversation about practice, by embracing the differences we encounter in practice - builds a school culture hospitable to both learning and community.

Roland S. Barth³

Teachers who learn how to look at and reflect on classroom and school relationships and who develop the skills of trying out new practices, will be the most effective in bringing about long term change to improve student learning. The Classroom Observation and Peer Support Program² (COPS) is centred on the teacher's ability to understand classroom interaction, on the basis that this is where we believe we can have the most impact on student learning. The program provides the space and time for teachers to reflect, learn new skills and to practise them with support from each other.

It is assumed that teachers enter COPS with prior experience, knowledge, skill and understanding about teaching and learning. The outcomes for the course are described in terms of participants deepening their knowledge by using new processes in classroom observation and peer support.

The Introductory Module

The first workshop day will include:

- An introduction to observing, describing and analyzing classroom action.
- Working as a critical friend with your colleague.
- Practicing giving and getting feedback.
- Working as a group.

Between the two workshops at school:

Partners (or 3s) will observe each other teach and have a structured conversation after each observation.. This work forms the basis of the second workshop.

The second workshop day will include:

- Debriefing observation and description of classroom action
- Talking about your work as a partner
- Deepening the analysis of classroom action
- Reflecting on what you are learning about student learning and teaching.

1. Stenhouse, L (1975) *An Introduction to Curriculum Research and Development*, Heinemann, London, p, 208.

2. Acknowledgement: *The Classroom Observation and Peer Support Program* was based on The Classroom Relationships Project, Education Department of WA, 1984 – 88 described in Williams, T., Colliver, R., (1986) *Excellence in Teaching: Lessons From The Classroom Management Project*, Education Department of Western Australia. Numerous changes have been made to the structure, processes and intent of the original project as it was first developed and implemented. Some of these changes may not now represent the previous project as it was originally intended.

3. Barth, R. 2001 *Stepping Back in Journal of Staff Development*, Summer 2001 (Vol, No.3), NSCD.



Workshop Information

Monday 26 March

8.30am to 4.00pm

Friday 30 March

8.30 to 4.00 pm

Location:

The Reflective Retreat Centre

Somewhere nice

Greenfields

Lakelands

Note that the minimum enrolment from any one school is two teachers.

Costs per person is \$440 (incl GST).

If more than two people from a school then cost is reduced to \$396 (incl GST) per person.

Costs include coffee, morning tea and lunch and all materials.

Ongoing Opportunities

Interested participants from the introductory module are invited to enrol in the following modules. Cost of each module is \$550 per person or \$495 per person when more than two people from a school.

Module 2:

Workshop Three: Exploring self as a teacher

Between Workshops: Partners observe each other and have a structured conversation afterwards.

School Visit: Consultants visit each school to interview partners about their learning.

Workshop Four: Role reversal with students

Module 3:

Workshop Five: The class as a learning community

Between Workshops: Partners observe each other and have a structured conversation afterwards.

School Visit: Consultants visit each school to interview partners about their learning.

Workshop Six: Documenting your learning.

Program Leaders

John Hogan

John has developed the Classroom Observation and Peer Support Program over the past 6 years. In that time he has run the program in a range of schools. He has extensive experience, expertise and training in consulting with organisations and community groups, facilitating planning, action learning, reflective practice and group work, leading groups and managing projects in educational settings, supporting leaders through coaching and supervision, conducting research and evaluation, curriculum development and implementation and in the provision of professional development and training courses. He works with organisations, groups and individuals as they engage with change through his business Redgum Consulting Pty Ltd.

Steve Miolin

Steve is a secondary school teacher from Western Australia with 26 years experience. He has both participated in and led Classroom Observation and Peer Support programs. During the past 4 years he has delivered Classroom Management & Instructional Skills training programs to experienced and new teachers. In that time he has continued to teach. He has observed hundreds of lessons and given feedback to teachers about their successful application of the skills learnt in the workshops. Steve's priority is classroom teaching and a commitment to training that recognises and respects the complexity of the work teachers do. As well as extensive and recent classroom teaching experience he has worked in various school leadership roles and he has worked across a district coordinating and delivering a range of professional development programs.

Name Position

Name Position

Name Position

Name Position

School/Organisation

Address

Phone Fax

E-mails for each participant

E-mails for each participant

E-mails for each participant

Costs: Tick the category.

- Two participants \$440 (incl GST) per participant \$880.00
- More than two participants at \$396 (incl GST) per person. No of participants:

Total payment \$

PAYMENT METHODS

- Cheque made payable to Redgum Consulting Pty Ltd and post to Redgum Consulting PO Box 537 Fremantle WA 6959
- Direct Deposit to:
Commonwealth Bank Kalamunca
BSB 066 112 Account 1014 8508
NB Please notify us if paying by direct deposit.

Classroom Observation and Peer Support is also available as a within school program, typically working with teacher teams or groups of 10 – 16 teachers from across the school. Please contact John Hogan for further information.

