

**Prospects Services**  
Black Country House  
Rounds Green Road  
Oldbury  
B69 2DG

**Tel:** 0208 315 1246

Ms Kirstie Stroud  
Duncombe Primary School  
Sussex Way  
London  
N19 4JA

**E-mail:** polena.begum@prospects.co.uk

30<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Dear Kirstie,

### **Leading Parent Partnership Award - Outcome of Reassessment Process**

Thank you for organising and managing the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA) Reassessment Visit to your school.

I am very pleased to enclose a copy of the Reassessment Report, which confirms the feedback given at the end of the visit - that the school has been successful in the Reassessment Process and now holds the Leading Parent Partnership Award for a further three years.

Congratulations on your success in Reassessment and on the excellent work that you are leading in your school in partnership with your staff, parents, pupils and governors.

Also enclosed with this letter is a check list for you to return in order to receive your certificate, plaque and LPPA logo as desired. Please complete this form and return it to Prospects, either by scanned email or by post to the above address.

Should you at any time require any further information please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Approximately six months before your school is again due for Reassessment we will be in further contact with you.

Yours sincerely



Polena Begum  
LPPA Administrator

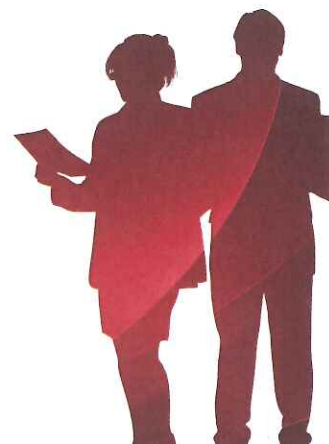
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## Leading Parent Partnership Award Reassessment Report

School	Duncombe Primary School
Address	Sussex Way London N19 4JA
Telephone:	0207 272520
Headteacher	Mr Barrie O'Shea
Person responsible for parent partnership	Kirstie Stroud
Date of Re- Assessment Visit	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2017
LPPA Verifier	Jenny Townsend

### **Commentary on the Mini-portfolio of Evidence**

Evidence on the day of verification was presented through a discussion with the head teacher and the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA) Coordinator, a tour of the school and meetings with parents, staff, governors and pupils.

The well organised portfolio of evidence was extremely detailed and provided an excellent record of the work that the school has been doing to further develop parent partnership at the school. Statistical data was available to back up improvements that have been achieved. There has been, for example, a considerable improvement in pupil attendance levels.

There was plenty of evidence to show that the school regularly consults with its parents. Any follow up actions that the school has taken as a result of consultations have also been recorded.

Parent Partnership continues to be embedded in the School Development Plan (SDP). Through the SDP the school ensures that all pupils, parents and staff are supported in their physical, mental and emotional well-being.

There was plenty of evidence to show that all the Objectives and the Key Performance Indicators within the award have been fully met.

### **Commentary on the tour of the school**

- The tour of the school highlighted the warm and friendly atmosphere that exists throughout Duncombe Primary School with pupils and parents purposefully engaged in a wide range of learning activities. Every possible space in both old Victorian buildings is fully utilised.
- Bright and colourful displays of pupils' work liven up the corridor areas and classrooms.
- The electronic noticeboards, one in reception and the other outside, display relevant information about daily learning activities/events that will be taking place. The school's vision statement 'Lifelong celebration and support' is clearly displayed.
- In addition to the LPPA, the school holds a number of other quality marks such as the School Safety Award and the Arts Mark Gold Award. Wherever possible the school has involved parents in the activities planned for children, e.g. parent volunteers who have accompanied pupils on trips to museums have been encouraged to bring along their own sketch books.
- Named photos of all the staff are displayed at reception (and on the website) to help pupils, parents (and new staff) identify them.
- An eye-catching version of the School Development Plan and vision is prominently displayed for all to see.
- The tour included the observation of a parents' session about how Maths is taught in school today. The large number of parents who attended the session were clearly very appreciative of the opportunity to find out more about how their children are taught and reacted positively to the opportunity of being able to buy the related text book (at a discounted rate) so that they could continue to support their child's Maths learning at home.
- Another group of parents were learning about healthy eating and exercise as part of the Families for Life programme while another group of parents were making craft items to sell locally on Saturday. Once a week some parents, without recourse to public funds, get involved in the Parent Recycling Club to support their income.
- The old caretaker house has been turned into a bright and inviting space for parent classes and is now named the Thomas Slingsby Duncombe Learning Centre.

### **Commentary on discussions with staff, governors, parents and pupils/students**

#### **Parents**

Parents like sessions that explain how they can help their children with literacy and Maths because "these are taught differently now".

They like having the opportunity to use the same resources at home, e.g. the flash cards.

Parent really like receiving certificates for Parent Participation. They especially liked seeing these on display at the Islington Town Hall.

"The school has always been helpful".

"This school has a nice friendly feel".

"The school helps parents to meet with other parents. This helps to overcome isolation".

### **Staff**

Staff really value the work of the two School Home Support Workers, one who works with parents to raise attendance and the other who does literacy and maths work with parents. It is clear that they are totally committed to furthering the development of parent partnership.

### **Governors**

In the past it used to be hard to recruit parent Governors but these days it is easier. Recently an election was required because there were more candidates than Governor places available.

Governors feel that holding this election helped to raise the profile of the Governors' role with the parents.

Governors now ensure that the key facts from their meetings are fed back to parents through the Parents' Newsletters. This has encouraged parents to interact more with Governors and to ask about any proposed changes planned for the school, e.g. the plans that are currently being developed for the reception area.

The Governors are very sensitive about anything that could result in additional costs being incurred by parents such as the imminent increases that will be required in the fees for after school clubs so they are careful to give parents plenty of advance warning about any increases that may be required.

"The school is very inclusive".

"We see Governors as being enablers who can provide support for parents".

### **Pupils**

The pupils expressed very positive views about the various opportunities that the school provides for their parents, e.g. Families for Life and the Dads and Lads football events.

Pupils believe that it is good to have their parents coming in to school as "it helps with their learning".

### **Strengths Identified In The Review**

- Duncombe Primary School is a school that is very much a centre for the local community. Support for parents is available throughout their lives. With its many links to outside agencies the school is able to provide prompt support for parents and families who have a wide range of needs, e.g. health problems, immigration issues, seeking employment, and/or finding suitable housing, challenging home lives, DV etc.
- There is a very extensive list of activities/opportunities available for parents to get involved in at this school.
- The school carries out a detailed annual survey to collect parents' views.
- Parental engagement and support forms part of the appraisal for all members of staff.
- The school has a well- established and well organised parent volunteer programme and provides placements through CSV to some very challenged individuals.

- Evening activities are held for parents, e.g. Lou's Wonderland.
- The school works hard to engage with fathers, e.g. events to celebrate Fathers' Day and opportunities for dads to read with children. Recently the school has developed the Arsenal project with the Arsenal Football Club involving sessions for dads and lads and culminating with a tour of the Emirates Stadium.
- Coffee mornings for parents have proved popular and these are now held weekly whenever possible.
- School funded crèche provision runs alongside parents' activities and events.
- Local agencies are encouraged to set up stalls at parents' evenings.
- The introduction of an email system for all parents has proved popular, as well as texting.
- The school has introduced a Twitter account – this is especially popular with parents when their children are away on a school trip. In addition there is a live Twitter feed on the school website for those parents who do not have their own Twitter account.
- The school ensures that parents are given plenty of warning about forthcoming events.
- The Bring a Parent to School Day is a very popular with parents.
- Parents are encouraged to go on the organised visits to universities with their children.
- The school actively promotes local opportunities for parents, e.g. activities advertised by local libraries and/or museums.
- Each week parents are provided with updates about what their child has been learning.
- The school has excellent induction and transition programmes.
- There is a Young Interpreters programme to support the range of languages spoken in the school.
- The well - established Breakfast Club now opens from 7.30am which is much appreciated by working parents.
- The International Evening has now been moved to the autumn term to make it part of the induction programme.
- The school shares its good practice with local schools and also with schools from around the world, e.g. Italy, Norway and Japan, etc.
- Prior to each half term holiday the school sends home a list of suggestions for half term activities in the local area.
- The school works closely with the Islington Family Learning service to run courses for parents.

### **Areas For Development**

- Continue to maintain the outstanding work that the school is doing in parent partnership.
- The school has already identified the need to improve its reception area so that it is not so congested and so that a suitable space can be made available for parents who need to discuss confidential matters. Plans have already been drawn up for the new reception area.
- Consider how you could further strengthen the links with working parents who find it difficult to visit the school regularly – perhaps the establishment of an interactive blog for these parents?
- Introduce some new joint sessions for parent and child such as on-line safety and/or a book club for parents (Key Stage 2).

### **Recommendation by the Adviser**

That Duncombe Primary School be re-awarded the Leading Parent Partnership Award for a further period of three years.

### **Headteacher Comment**

This is a very fair report. It touches on many of the activities and processes Duncombe School provides for parents and the local community. It also gives us much food for thought and challenges us to look to the future from a very positive position.