



Leading Parent Partnership Award

Re-Assessment Report

School	Pitcheroak School
Address	Willow Way Batchley Redditch Worcs. B97 6PQ
Headteacher	Ms Sheila Holden
Person responsible for parent partnership	Mrs Keeley Jaworski
Date of Re- Assessment Visit	2 July 2014
LPPA Verifier	Tina Bate

Commentary on the Mini-portfolio of Evidence

The mini portfolio was organised very efficiently and effectively, containing an excellent range of evidence to show how the school is meeting the Objectives and Key Performance Indicators of the LPPA.

In particular there is strong evidence to show that:

- Provision of support for parents is well thought out and effectively delivered.
- Parents are very well informed by the school via newsletters, letters, home school diaries and telephone calls. There is a very good range of courses and activities for parents to help them support their children's learning and to address their own learning needs.
- The school is sensitive to parental needs and does what it can to facilitate attendance at meetings.
- Thorough analysis of events is made and feedback is provided for parents in response.
- Quality induction and transition materials are produced which are often bespoke to meet the needs of the pupil.
- Celebration of pupils' achievement.
- Parental Involvement continues to be a priority in the School Development Plan.
- Links with external agencies; including a new link with 'Early Help' - facilitating families of preschool children to meet with this agency. (Many of these children will be future

Pitcheroak pupils.)

- New style newsletter which includes lots of colourful photographs of students engaged in curriculum activities.
- Calendar of events providing as much advance notice as possible.
- New drop in sessions run by the school's Early Intervention Support Worker.
- A wide range of sessions for parents to support their children's learning and joint enrichment opportunities.
- Regular consultation opportunities and a recent questionnaire sent out by the new Headteacher.
- 'Life Beyond School' events to support transition.

Commentary on the tour of the school

- The school entrance will be totally altered in the summer holidays to make it larger and more parent friendly and welcoming. Plans are displayed in the foyer to show all the proposed changes.
- The foyer is a long corridor with notice boards which contain key information and photographs of staff; visitors are greeted by friendly staff.
- The foyer leads to a seating area which is placed very closely to the new parents' meeting room. Additional information is provided here including a plasma screen.
- Display and bright colours have to be sensitive to the needs of the pupils. One of the corridors has recently been renovated and display wonderful 3-D flowers which were made by pupils.
- The outdoor facilities are attractive and purposeful.

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

Parents are extremely supportive of the school and the way it works with them.

They cite a long list of strengths including: courses; arrangements for induction and transition; the information they receive and the excellent communication between school and home. Parents are unanimous that all staff are approachable and appreciate their willingness to be flexible and supportive, responding to any queries or concerns quickly. They stressed the importance and success of the open door policy where they can contact the school or visit at any time and always speak to members of staff. By participating in the Friends of Pitcheroak group they felt they were giving something back to the school and also importantly facilitating family and pupil participation.

Staff communicate a strong sense of teamwork and 'joined up thinking' that ensures all parents are welcome in school, that their needs are recognised and appropriate support, courses, workshops and information is provided.

Staff are very aware of the input that parents make to their child's learning and value them as co-educators. They maintain very close links with external agencies that work with the child and will often support parents, where necessary, by accompanying them on visits/appointments.

Pupils are very proud of their school and their own individual achievements, which they enjoy sharing with their parents through certificates, presentations and graduations. They felt that there were several opportunities for parents to learn about what they are studying and for joint enrichment opportunities. They appreciated all the activities that the Friends of Pitcheroak group put on for them to enjoy.

Strengths Identified In The Review

- The strong ethos and commitment to working in partnership with parents for the benefit of all pupils and their families. This has resulted in parents feeling very comfortable within the school community and part of their child's class and school life; the new Headteacher has enthusiasm and clear vision of how to enhance this partnership further.
- The new Headteacher's knowledge of parents' needs and meeting these needs through the changes she has already implemented: new style newsletter, improvement to the welcome of the school and dedicated parent meeting room.
- Provisions of sessions for parents, including the new opportunities of 'stay and play', drop-ins, coffee mornings- where parents can invite external agencies and also the extensive individual support provided.
- Enhanced communication between home and school through a variety of means; regular conversations on the telephone and through the home/ school book for younger pupils; photographs; high quality written information, new website and text alerts; plans are in place to further refine communication strategies.
- The school is listening and responsive to parental feedback, e.g. in a recent survey 96% of parents agreed that parents responded well to any parental concerns.
- Thorough induction procedures and information sharing ensures smooth, enjoyable transition that meets the individual needs of the pupils.
- Effective transition supports in house, from year group to year group, and the 14 – 19 age group so that it is smooth and well coordinated.

Areas For Development

The new Headteacher has a clear vision for parental engagement, which includes:

- Introducing a parent panel/forum as a consultative group to support the school and facilitate the opportunity for parents to share their views.
- Introducing a parent activity every term organised by one of the Heads of Department in rotation so that all year groups are included.
- Defining expectation for home school communication through the home school book.

Recommendation by the Adviser

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

Headteacher Comment

Working with parents and carers is incredibly important to the success of all students' lives. When everyone shares the same goals everyone benefits and young people are supported to learn and feel successful. The school is always looking at different ways in order to develop programmes that promote and strengthen parental involvement. We feel by working in collaboration with our families we will be able to ensure a more effective partnership is in place for the future.

May we use your comments on our website or publicity materials? Yes/ No