



## Leading Parent Partnership Award

### Reassessment Report

School	Whitefield Schools
Address	Macdonald Road Walthamstow London E17 4AZ
Telephone:	02085313426
Headteacher	Laura Pease
Person responsible for parent partnership	Gill Wadeson
Date of Re- Assessment Visit	24 <sup>th</sup> March 2016
LPPA Verifier	Jeanne Le Bars

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

- Ms Wadeson has compiled an impressive and detailed portfolio of evidence which fully illustrates the continuing commitment of everyone at Whitefields' to parent partnership and parental involvement.
- Partnership continues to be a key focus in the school's improvement plan.
- The Family Support Team has been extended to include a 'Looked After Children' Lead Teacher.
- The school environment is welcoming and family friendly.
- Communication between home and school is often on a daily basis; phone calls, texts, face to face meetings, all are in place. The school's termly newsletters are professional in appearance, interesting, with lots of photographs celebrating the children and young people and their achievements and experiences. They also provide valuable information for parents on services provided locally, and advice on accessing services.
- Whitefield's programme of workshops and seminars continue to provide information, understanding and support for parents, including literacy, numeracy, Esafety, and, in conjunction with the National Autistic Society, seminars on anger management, understanding autism, and sensory needs.
- All evaluative processes are thorough and well evidenced throughout the portfolio. Questionnaires show how parents value the family support and good communication provided by Whitefield.
- Enriching activities and opportunities for parents to share learning and experiences with their children are also well evidenced, and the many photographs in the portfolio show how valuable and enjoyable these are for everyone involved, including fathers. Cooking together develops both parents' and children's skills as well as being fun.

- Induction and Transition processes are well evidenced and reflect the sensitive and detailed way in which both are managed by the school, recognising just how difficult these times can be, both for the parent and the child. Comprehensive information is given; help with forms, induction mornings and class visits are all in place. Transition to college -after school also involves considerable support for parents.
- Induction also includes understanding policies and processes.
- The portfolio also illustrates the many, many ways in which Whitefield celebrates the children and young people's achievements across the board, with festivals, graduations, end of term events all including parents.

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

- Whitefield is a welcoming school with a cosy reception area with comfortable seating, and a display rack of information for parents.
- Displays throughout the school are excellent, of a gold standard and celebrate the children and all that they achieve.
- There are class photos of the children in every class which creates a real sense of 'belonging'.
- The school has recently installed an amazing high tech immersive room which allows the children to have the most realistic and wide ranging experiences, for example a busy supermarket, wild animals, snow, underwater, the list is endless and the provision both educational and life enhancing.
- The whole site has a calm and purposeful 'feel', reflecting its' status as a Research and Development Centre.

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

- All the discussions reflected a strong sense of the importance of the school's partnership with parents.
- Parents emphasised the total support they receive, not only for their child, but also for them, in helping them develop their coping skills, and their understanding of the curriculum. They really appreciate being able to come into school and share learning with their children, particularly cooking. Parents said that their children really enjoy school and are progressing. They emphasised how the school supports them in dealing with the many wider issues that impact on parents with children with special needs, including dealing with forms, housing and accessing services.
- Staff discussions illustrated the high levels of commitment to the pupils and their parents. They said how important it is to be in regular, often daily contact with parents, and this contact is key at Whitefield. The phone calls can be about a whole range of things, social, emotional, as well as learning. "From dealing with the impact of 'Scratchy clothes' to sharing objectives and joint learning".

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

- In addition to all the above, the school also has regular 'Parents Group', 'Turkish Parents' Group' and 'Parents working with children' sessions.
- The work of the Family Support Team ensures that the school can provide a truly holistic approach to the school's effective partnership with parents. This then impacts positively on the well being of the child.
- Whitefield provides in-school access to all the various professionals; dentist, optician, physio and occupational therapists, podiatrist, and CAMS, all can be seen in the one place, which is a major source of support and makes life so much easier for parents and carers.
- As above the cooking and craft sessions not only provide opportunities for joint learning, but also allow parents to meet and interact and share experiences in a relaxed way.
- This provision of sharing is re-enforced in the parent group sessions.
- The school has used the new 'Education, Health and Care' (EHIC) plans to work more closely

with parents, including the sometimes hard to reach parents, helping parents with the “All About Me” section of the plan. In her evidence Gill Wadeson writes that “This has helped us to gain a fuller picture of the whole family...and meet in a 1-1 setting.

- The school’s status as the ‘Whitefield Research and Development Centre’ and the dedicated training and development centre enables the school to work more closely with outside agencies, including the Waltham Forest Parent Forum, Scope, Sense. All sessions are open to parents and patens in the wider community.

### **Areas For Development**

As agreed:

- To further develop parenting skills.
- To explore ‘Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities,’ in order to break the length of the course into manageable sections for parents.
- To run the NAS ‘Healthy Minds’; resilience workshops.
- To embed the school’s good practice and ensure that parent partnership is embedded in all staff practice.

### **Recommendation by the Adviser**

That Whitefield Schools receives the Leading Parent Partnership Award for a further three years.

### **Headteacher Comment**

Many thanks for this report which truly reflects the expertise and commitment of our Family Support Team and all colleagues at Whitefield. We are grateful to our assessor for the care and enthusiasm she showed in the assessment process and are delighted with the outcome.

As a school we have found the LPPA process, though challenging, very helpful in supporting our own self evaluation and highlighting areas where we can continue to improve.

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