



## Leading Parent Partnership Award

### Reassessment Report

School	St. Michael Catholic Primary School
Address	Feltham Hill Road Ashford Middlesex TW15 2DG
Telephone:	01784 53333
Headteacher	John Lane
Person responsible for parent partnership	Kelly Knipe
Date of Re- Assessment Visit	19 <sup>th</sup> November 2015
LPPA Verifier	Jeanne Le Bars

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

Mrs. Knipe has compiled a detailed portfolio illustrating how the school has continued and developed its good practice in partnership with parents. The evidence illustrates that:

- Parent Partnership remains a key focus in the school development plan.
- The school's new mission statement, 'Excellence, Enrichment and Enjoyment' is in place and displayed.
- The school site has been improved including new equipment, an Astro five a side pitch, extension of the dining hall, planting boxes, and a new fenced off play area for reception.
- The reception area now has nice 'Welcome' signs and photographs of the staff. Safeguarding identification badges are in place and given to all visitors.
- Communication has been radically developed and now includes weekly newsletters which are interesting, informative and engaging, parent mails, parent texts. PTA Face book, and School Twitter will be included in the new web site.
- Half termly coffee mornings and weekly Friday assemblies are held for parents.
- Curriculum information and support for parents has been further developed with very detailed curriculum maps in place for every subject and every year group.
- 'How can I support my child at home' workshops are in place as are English, Maths, Phonics, New curriculum and New Sats arrangements workshops, and 'Girls Enriching Maths' (GEMS). The school website now includes links to help parent support their children's learning.
- Enrichment is a key constituent of the St. Michael ethos, fully illustrated in the school's recent Circus event.
- Induction now includes home visits and policies on teaching and learning.

- All policies are in place and on the web site.
- All transition KPIs met and embedded.

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

Although the tour of the school was not extensive it is clear that:

- As above the school site has been improved and refreshed with a programme of re-decoration. As the redecoration is recent displays in some areas will soon be refreshed. Those in place are excellent.
- The site is well managed, with clean corridors and classes.
- The library is well stocked and well equipped with comfortable seating for the children.
- Children move around the school in a calm and purposeful manner.

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

#### **Governors.**

- The Parent Governor who kindly gave his time for the reassessment verification said that the governors were very pleased with the new senior appointments and pleased that these internal appointments had ensured a smooth transition following the previous Head's departure.
- The new SMT has considerably improved the communication strategies and practice, and helped parents to be and feel more informed and included and enjoy an ongoing 'dialogue with the school.
- The tone of the weekly newsletters from the Head and school ensures that they are well read and enjoyed by parents, as well as being informative.
- The school has been updated in terms of using IT to develop communication across the board both school and curriculum information.
- The regular Friday assemblies are both valuable and enjoyable.
- The further development of curriculum information and workshops are welcomed by parents and governors.
- The 'Meet the Governors' events for parents are linked with workshops and keeps both parents and governors well informed about the teaching and learning in the school.
- Levels of attainment and Ofsted's finding that the school is outstanding are recognised by Governors as being the result of the staff's commitment and rigorous attention to detail.
- As a parent and governor he appreciates the school's constant focus on the importance of homework and the children's' recognition of the value of homework.
- As a parent and governor he also appreciates the range of enriching activities provided by the school.

#### **Parents.**

- Parents are clearly happy with the development of communication strategies and practice since the initial LPPA final verification. "There is much more interaction between home and school –it makes you feel more relaxed. There are immediate responses to any concerns parents may have. You feel confident to raise issues".
- The weekly newsletters are excellent and written in a way that makes you want to read them
- Parents, like the governors, were very happy that the new appointments to the SMT were made internally and are confident that St. Michael has continued to go from strength to strength.
- Breakfast and After School clubs are valued by many parents.
- The focus on reading throughout the school "provides an opportunity for an ongoing dialogue through the home school diary, and parents can make suggestions".
- "The school's stress on the importance of homework is appreciated by parents and children, though half term projects can be onerous, particularly if there more than one child in the school."
- Parents are confident that the induction and transition processes are thorough with considerable support given to both parent and child.

### **Pupils.**

- It was a pleasure to meet so many members of the school council who clearly understand how important it is that their parents and teachers work closely together.
- Pupils quite like parents' evenings and teachers talking to their parents about their progress. They enjoy opportunities to share their work with their parents at the 'Show My Work'. events
- Pupils said they also thought that sometimes it is important that their teachers can be strict "If they have to."
- The children were impressively clear about the value of enrichment in school, "Enrichment enables you to have a fuller life.
- They were very enthusiastic about the visit of the Circus to the school. "They were here for a whole week, with their Big Top Tent, and their caravans and their loos and they helped us to learn some circus skills, and then there were shows on the Friday and Saturday and our families came....."

### **Staff.**

- In conversation with a member of the SMT and reception teacher who is closely involved in the development of the new nursery, it is clear that the strong parent partnership ethos will be fully implemented in nursery provision.
- The current induction to reception has been well honed since the last LPPA final verification with home visits, reception newsletter which reflects planning for the year ahead, including the curriculum. Parental observations are held on a half termly basis, with observation slips for parents to add their comments and observations.  
All this good practice introduces and embeds the strong parent partnership evident throughout the school
- Staff appreciate and value the further developments in technology throughout the school.
- It is evident that staff at both key stages are fully committed to the school's partnership ethos and practice. There are more class school trips, more coffee mornings, and improved dialogue between home and school.

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

- In addition to all the above it is clear that St. Michael continues to embed and develop it's good practice in terms of a strong and effective partnership with parents.
- Communication is now excellent, and the school provides an improved environment for effective learning and enjoyment.
- Attendance and attainment continue to be excellent.
- The school has implemented the new RE curriculum and the new National Curriculum supporting parents by providing information and clarification both on the website and through paper copies.
- The school has won a 'Pupil Premium Award' from the Government.
- As above there is an ongoing programme of enrichment involving parents, including a Dad's Parish Football day.
- The school has a strong and stable staff.
- Evaluative processes have been developed and are thoroughly implemented.
- In consultation with parents and the local community the school has been successful in gaining a new school nursery which will provide places for children from two years old.
- The evidence shows that St. Michael has maintained its gold standard in its work with parents on a partnership basis.

### **Areas For Development**

As agreed:

- To ensure that the positive parent partnership ethos is continued in the new nursery.
- In the light of the conversations with parents during the reassessment to review half termly homework.

**Recommendation by the Adviser**

That St. Michael Catholic Primary School receives the Leading Parent Partnership Award for a further three years.

**Headteacher Comment**

I am delighted that the school will receive the Gold Standard Leading Parent Partnership Award for a further three years. We recognise that parents are the primary educators of their children so having a strong partnership based of trust and support is vital for our children to succeed and grow. I have been extremely well supported by the parents and staff since becoming headteacher and it is great to have such positive feedback from them. I look forward to continuing to working with our parents in the future and inviting LPPA back in 3 years.

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