



## Leading Parent Partnership Award Reassessment Report

School	Newfield School
Address	Old Bank Lane Blackburn BB1 2PW
Telephone:	01254 588600
Headteacher	Mr G. Fitzpatrick
Person responsible for parent partnership	Jenny Riley
Date of Re- Assessment Visit	21 <sup>st</sup> September 2016
LPPA Verifier	Maureen Nash

### Commentary on the Mini-portfolio of Evidence

Evidence on the day of verification was presented through a discussion with the head teacher and LPPA coordinator, a tour of the school and meetings with parents, governors, pupils and staff. The comprehensive portfolio and website contain a thorough range of evidence to clearly show how the school is still meeting the Objectives and Key Performance Indicators of the LPPA. The well-organised portfolio provides concise, clear information on each objective. Prior to the visit the coordinator provided a very detailed summary of evidence, highlighting current good practice and evidence within each objective and future plans.

In particular there is strong evidence to show that:

- Provision for parents with an ethos of supporting and involving parents continues to be embedded in school practice both in strategic planning and practice.
- The school has a wide range of strategies to help parents support their child's learning and to support the whole family, adapting to the needs of parents and their child.
- Communication strategies support home school links in various forms including high quality newsletters, clear accessible website and written information and the use of technology. Personal communication remains a priority.
- There is strong evidence of parental satisfaction with the school, for example through rising numbers and the recent Ofsted report.

Newfield School was judged as Outstanding in by Ofsted (February, 2016) who recognise in their report that:

'The collective desire of all adults associated with the school to settle for nothing but the best is the added impetus behind the excellent achievement of pupils who are fortunate enough to attend Newfield School' and 'Parents are supportive of the school. Those spoken to, along with the vast majority of those who responded to the online survey, praise highly the effectiveness of the school'.

## Commentary on the tour of the school

- The foyer provides a calm, bright, welcoming entrance to Newfield within the modern school building which houses excellent facilities.
- Medical professionals have an office base and meeting rooms within the school, providing easily accessible support for pupils and their families.
- There are meeting rooms of different sizes to facilitate appropriate environments for a range of meetings.
- Display is attractive; both celebrating and scaffolding learning and information noticeboards for parents are well placed in areas particularly used by parents.
- Work will soon begin on a new department to meet the needs of autistic pupils and plans are displayed to ensure parents are informed.
- The school has a warm, welcoming 'feel' and the personal welcome provided by the office staff was reflected during the tour of the school, with all staff and pupils greeting the verifier in a friendly, welcoming manner.

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

**Parents** are extremely supportive of the school and the way it works with families. They cite a long list of strengths including the information they receive and the communication between school and home. Parents see the staff commitment as going above and beyond to support the needs of their children and also families and are extremely happy that their children all enjoy attending school. They value that they can always speak to members of staff and that the availability of medical professionals provides joined-up thinking. All agree that the school is like a family, 'We are like an extended family'.

**Staff and governors** value that school staff are accessible with parents having access to a range of specialisms. Staff value their strong induction and transition procedures and also that school staff meet the individual needs of children and their families. They value that improved communication and events have increased parental engagement at Newfield and that pupils benefit from a consistent approach between home and school. These home-school links are enhanced through daily communications and by reaching out to parents, for example to share learning in the classroom and through home visits.

**Pupils** were able to share information on how the school supported and involved their parents and families in their general school life. They provided information on communication links between home and school and recognised how their parents were informed of their individual learning and progress. They recognised why school wants parents to become involved, providing the thoughtful examples of seeing what pupils do, to meet other parents and to help parents understand what children do in school.

## Strengths Identified In The Review

- The head teacher has a clear vision and promotes a strong ethos for involving parents in the life of the school.
- Newfield has ensured that parental involvement is embedded and sustainable within school through having a senior leader as strategic lead and having parental involvement within an area of strategic priority in the school development plan.
- The family ethos of Newfield was evident throughout all aspects of the verification, for example in the documentation, on the website and in conversations with stakeholders, 'Parents refer to us as their family and that is the way we consider them' (staff), 'It is the Newfield family', (governor) and 'It is a family with open arms' (parent).
- Parents are well informed of their child's learning and progress through for example, home school diaries, whole school and class newsletters, individual personal contact, parents evenings and

annual reviews.

- Newfield positively reaches out to parents to support positive outcomes for children. Parents are invited into the classroom to share strategies that can be used at home and school to generalise skills, new parents are reassured by being welcomed into the classroom and there are home visits for children who are too poorly to attend school.
- Parents and staff value that staff are accessible for parents and that individual needs of children and families are met. All parents met during the verification stated their huge appreciation of the positive attitude and support from school, maintaining their own and their child's confidence, 'Every individual child is pushed to be the best they can' (parent).
- There is a range of opportunities to engage parents with school and their own and their child's learning. There are informal events to provide peer support, workshops including Makaton, Cygnet and Riding the Rapids and celebrations such as performances and assemblies.
- Communication with parents has been extended and improved, particularly through bi-lingual staff, the attractive, informative website and use of technology, such as texting, Facebook and blog. Personal contact through home visits, face to face conversations and phone calls, along with opportunities to meet staff at school events remains a priority.
- Newfield School has thorough systems of induction and transition for children and their families.
- Families have access to a range of professional help on-site e.g. therapists, dietician, paediatrician, which supports attendance and provide 'an umbrella' of support (parent).
- There has been an evaluative approach during the LPPA process and this is now embedded in school practice. The development of parent partnership is seen as on-going despite the good practice already in place.

### Areas For Development

The following areas were agreed between the Verifier and the LPPA coordinator:

- To further promote opportunities for parents to develop their own learning.
- To strategically plan staffing and support for parents in the new ASD part of the school.
- To continue to develop existing good practice in parental involvement at Newfield School.

### Recommendation by the Adviser

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

### Headteacher Comment

I am delighted with this report which celebrates our partnership with parents and carers. I am very proud that the work of children, staff, professionals and families has been recognised by the LPPA assessor, Maureen Nash, once again.

The Newfield family is absolutely thrilled to receive this accolade.

I would like to personally thank Maureen for visiting school and producing such a positive report.

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