

**EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE SUB COMMITTEE
30 SEPTEMBER 1998**

Present: Councillor Ward (Chairman), Councillors Barnard, Mrs Doyle,
Fawcett, Harrison, Mrs Hirst, Mrs Shillcock, Mrs Sutcliffe and Wheaton

8. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub Committee held on 13 May 1998 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

9. The Brakenhale School: Six Monthly Report on the Progress of the LEA Post – Ofsted Action Plan (Item 3)

The Sub Committee received a report for information on the progress of the LEA action plan and other measures adopted by The Brakenhale School in response to the key issues for action identified in the Ofsted inspection report.

The school had implemented a number of strategies to ensure improvements. Early indications were that improvements were being achieved (e.g. an improvement of 5% in the percentage of pupils achieving 5 or more A* to C grades at GCSE this year and internal decoration improvements). The Headteacher, Cathy Croft, described how the action plan was being implemented in the school. She tabled a selection of performance information including 1997/98 examination results at GCSE and A Level, a summary of the National Curriculum assessment results at key stage 3 and a financial report.

The Sub Committee was pleased to note the improvements which were being achieved at the TheBrakenhale School.

10. Summaries of Ofsted Inspection Reports (Item 2)

The Sub Committee received the summaries of Ofsted inspection reports for the six Bracknell Forest schools which had been inspected during the summer term 1998. The Headteachers of each of the schools attended the meeting to present their summary report and to answer the Sub Committee's detailed questions.

St Margaret Clitherow RC Junior & Infant School: Headteacher Mr Peter O. McGivern
Sandy Lane Infant School: Headteacher Mrs E Forsyth
Holly Spring Infant School: Headteacher Mrs Ann Cowley
Wildridings County Primary School: Headteacher R. D. Donaldson
Cranbourne Primary School: Headteacher Mr P H Edwards
Whitegrove Primary School: Headteacher Mrs C Tsakmakis

The summaries detailed the main findings of the inspections and, where the school had previously been inspected, an assessment of the improvement made by the school since the last inspection, and the key issues for action.

The Sub Committee was pleased to note that the inspections had found at least satisfactory provision in each of the schools and many areas where provision was very good. The common themes emerging from the inspection reports included:

- the need to respond to the development of more able pupils
- the need for improvement in the use of information technology in the curriculum, both in terms of sufficiency of equipment and development of teachers' competencies
- the need for more systematic observation and monitoring of classroom practice.

The Governors' action plans for St Margaret Clitherow RC Infant and Junior School and Sandy Lane Infant School were also attached for the Sub Committee's information.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Sub Committee note the findings of the inspection reports; and
- (ii) the Sub Committee note the Governors' action plans for St Margaret Clitherow RC Infant and Junior School and Sandy Lane Infant School.

11. **The Summer Literacy School (Item 1)**

The Director of Education reported on the Summer Literacy School held at Easthampstead Park School from 17 to 27 August 1998, following Bracknell Forest's successful bid from the Standards Fund Category 9.

The Summer School had been successful and well attended. Clear gains had been made by pupils in their self-esteem and confidence and parents had commented on the excellent preparation this had been for their entry into secondary school.

Assessment procedures would be reviewed and developed for any future Summer School project. A systematic method of assessment was required to ensure that the pupils selected were those who would derive most benefit from Summer School provision. Assessment should also enable pupils' improvement to be measured more accurately and this should be coupled with ongoing monitoring to see whether individual pupils were able to sustain progress.

RESOLVED that

- (i) the evaluative information about the Summer Literacy School be noted; and
- (ii) the Sub Committee endorse a formal thank you to the Project Co-ordinator and all those involved in the delivery of the project.

12. **Public Examinations and National Curriculum Assessments in Bracknell Forest 1998 (Item 4)**

The Sub Committee agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

The meeting commenced at 5.00p.m.
and concluded at 8.00p.m.

CHAIRMAN