

**EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE SUB COMMITTEE  
17 NOVEMBER 1998**

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

Apologies for absence had been received from:  
Councillor Mrs Hirst

**13 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Sub Committee held on 30 September 1998 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**14 Summaries of Ofsted Inspection Reports (Item 1)**

The Sub Committee received a report on the main findings of a recent inspection at Sandy Lane Junior School.

A new style of inspection report had been introduced by Ofsted with effect from 1 September 1998. The new format included judgements on what the school did well, where it had weaknesses, how it had improved since the last inspection, standards in subjects, quality of teaching, other aspects of the school and the parents' view of the school.

The Headteacher and Chairman of Governors of the school were present to answer the Sub Committee's detailed questions on the inspection report. The school had been particularly concerned about Ofsted's new practice of comparing the schools performance with "similar" schools. These schools had been identified by reference to entitlement to free school meals and proportions of pupils with English as an additional language. On this basis Bracknell Forest schools were being compared with those in the most advantaged areas in the Country.

The Sub Committee thanked the Headteacher and Chairman of Governors for attending and congratulated them on the excellent report which the school had received.

**RESOLVED** that the findings of the inspection report be noted.

**15 The Standards Fund (Item 2)**

The Sub Committee received a report which sought approval for submission of proposed bids to the DfEE for grants available under the Standards Fund for 1999/2000.

The Standards Fund was the main source of funding for projects to raise standards and support School Improvement through professional development for Managers, teaching staff and the Governors. It was central to the Government's school

improvement agenda and was seen as the main means by which the challenging national targets at Key Stages 2 and 4 would be met.

A summary of eligible grants was attached as Appendix A to the report. A list of the proposed grants and bids for approval for submission was attached as Appendix C to the report.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the proposed grants and bids in Appendix C be approved for submission to the DfEE;
- (ii) the additional funding required from the Borough Council be considered as a service development option for 1999/2000;
- (iii) the grants be devolved to schools on the principles agreed with schools for 1998/1999.

**16 Item for Information**

The Sub Committee received the following item, which was submitted for information only:

The Performance in 1998 Baseline Assessment,  
National Curriculum Assessments and Public Examinations  
of Pupils in the Bracknell Forest Schools

(Item 3)

The meeting commenced at 5.30pm  
and concluded at 7.05pm

**CHAIRMAN**