

**EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE SUB COMMITTEE  
17 MARCH 1999**

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

Apologies for Absence were received from Councillors Harrison and Mrs Hirst.

**22. Substitute Members**

The Sub Committee noted the attendance of the following Substitute Members under Standing Order 38:

Councillor Good for Councillor Mrs Hirst  
Councillor Mrs Hayes for Councillor Harrison.

**23. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Sub Committee held on 26 January 1999 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**24. Summaries of Ofsted Inspection Reports (Item 1)**

The Sub Committee received a report on the main findings of a recent inspection at Garth Hill 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 Garth Hill School were present to answer the Sub Committee's detailed questions on the inspection report.

The Headteacher tabled a draft Action Plan to address the issues raised in the inspection report. A LEA Action Plan was also presented in support of this although the latter was not a statutory requirement. The LEA would be working closely with the school to implement effective strategies aimed at remedying the weaknesses and to monitor progress made. Among the proposals was the possibility of a temporary appointment of an additional Vice-Principal immediately below the Principal.

After discussing both Action Plans in detail the Sub Committee thanked the Headteacher and Chairman of the Governors for attending and expressed support for the Action Plans.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the inspection report and draft School Action Plan be noted;
- (ii) the LEA Action Plan be supported;
- (iii) the proposal to second a Vice-Principal be supported;
- (iv) the Director of Education write to the Headteacher drawing attention to the need to give the maximum amount of time to implementing the Action Plan

**25. Code of Practice on LEA – Schools Relations (Item 2)**

The Director of Education reported on a new Code of Practice on LEA-school relations which becomes statutory from 1 April 1999. The Code will apply to all LEAs in England and to all categories of maintained schools.

The Code was not intended to cover the full range of contacts between LEAs and schools but concentrates on areas relevant to raising standards and areas which are new in the School Standards and Framework Act.

The LEA has an important role in supporting schools and challenging them to do better which could be achieved by promoting high standards of education. The LEA should have a positive role and its interventions should be early and preventative so that severe failure could be avoided.

A new duty would be placed on the LEA to make written reports to the Chairman of the governing body, with a copy to the Headteacher where it has serious concern about the performance of the Headteacher. Before the LEA could exercise its intervention powers and the use of a formal warning notice there must be a period of informal discussion. The LEA is required to establish and publish the internal process to be followed before a formal warning notice is issued.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the Director of Education, in consultation with the Chairman of the Education Committee, be authorised to issue a formal warning notice and that a report on the matter be presented to the following meeting of the Quality Assurance Sub Committee
- (ii) the Sub Committee authorise the use of further powers of intervention, including the appointment of additional governors where a formal warning notice has been issued.

The meeting commenced at  
5.30pm and concluded at 7.35pm

**CHAIRMAN**