

**EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE SUB COMMITTEE
12 MAY 1999**

Present: Councillors Bailey, Fawcett, Harrison, Mrs Hayes,
Mrs Shillcock, Thompson, Ward, Wheaton & Worrall

Apologies had been received from Councillors Mrs Doyle & Mrs Sutcliffe

1. Election of Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Ward be elected Chairman of the Sub Committee for the ensuing year.

2. Appointment of Vice Chairman

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Hayes be appointed Vice Chairman of the Sub Committee for the ensuing year.

3. Substitute Members

The Committee noted the attendance of the following Substitute Members appointed under Standing Order No. 38:

Councillor Thompson for Councillor Mrs Doyle
Councillor Worrall for Councillor Mrs Sutcliffe

4. Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Sub Committee held on 17 March 1999 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Summaries of OFSTED Inspection Reports (Item 1)

The Sub Committee received the summaries of the main findings of two recent OFSTED Inspections of schools in Bracknell Forest.

Wooden Hill Primary School

Barbara Peterkin, the Head Teacher of Wooden Hill Primary School briefed the Sub Committee on the conduct and findings of the OFSTED inspection. The report was generally very positive, highlighting a wide range of areas where the school was performing well. Two areas of weakness were the attainment of pupils in mathematics at the end of Key Stage 2; and the adverse affect on teaching and learning of the cramped accommodation in the Reception Class. However, the weaknesses were greatly outweighed by what the school did well. The Governors' Action Plan was tabled which described how the school would address the areas of weakness identified.

Mrs Peterkin answered the Sub Committee's questions on the report. In conclusion the Sub Committee recorded its best wishes and congratulations to the staff and Governors of Wooden Hill Primary School.

Fox Hill Primary School

The Sub Committee welcomed Marion Desai, Head Teacher of Fox Hill Primary School and Mr J Brown, the Chairman of Governors. Mrs Desai briefed the Sub Committee on the content of the inspection report. It was noted that sound improvements had been made since the previous inspection and that the school had many strengths. However, there were significant areas which needed to be addressed and these would form the basis of the Governors' Action Plan. The Sub Committee discussed with Mrs Desai a number of the issues raised and how these were to be progressed. The Sub Committee asked Mrs Desai to communicate to her staff and Governors their best wishes and appreciation of the sound progress and achievements of the school.

RESOLVED that the findings of the OFSTED reports be noted.

6. Developments in Lifelong Learning

The Sub Committee received a report from the Director of Education on the successful application that the Bracknell Forest Targets Task Force had made to the Government Office for the South East (GOSE) in order to become the new Lifelong Learning Partnership for the Borough. The Local Education Authority had been identified as the lead partner for the Partnership. The report described the current and planned activities of the partnership including the plans for Adult Learners' Week 1999.

The LEA continued to promote developments in lifelong learning, including the local activities planned within the National Adult Learners' Week, 17 – 23 May 1999. During this week adults throughout the Borough would have the opportunity to join introductory courses using computers in order to learn new skills and access further learning activities. By focusing on the "digital revolution" the aim was to promote the idea that "learning is a good thing".

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

7. Progress in Support of School Governors' Post-OFSTED Action Plans April 1998 – May 1999 (Item 3)

The Sub Committee received a report from the Director of Education on the progress of LEA action plans drawn up since April 1998 to support schools after OFSTED inspections.

Following an OFSTED inspection, all schools were required to prepare a Governors' action plan to address the key issues identified in the inspection report. Since September 1998 the LEA had also been required to produce a statement or action plan to show how it intended to support schools judged to require special measures or to have serious weaknesses following an OFSTED inspection. One secondary school, The Brakenhale School, had been judged to have serious weaknesses in February 1998. The Sub Committee was pleased to note that the School had been

re-visited by a team of Her Majesty's Inspectors during April 1999 and the school had been found to be making reasonable progress in addressing the key issues identified for action.

The OFSTED inspection of The Garth Hill School had highlighted some concerns about the management of pupils' behaviour and aspects of management and communication in the school. The Sub Committee discussed these matters and noted that a full report on progress with the action plan to support The Garth Hill School would be available for the September meeting.

RESOLVED

- i) that the report be noted
- ii) that the updated LEA action plan for The Brakenhale School be endorsed

8. Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed to add an additional meeting to the programme of the Sub Committee on 14 July 1999 at 5.00 pm. This meeting would consider the OFSTED inspection report and Governors' and LEA Action Plans in respect of The Pines Junior School.

The meeting commenced at 5.30pm
and concluded at 7.40pm

CHAIRMAN