

**EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE SUB COMMITTEE  
22 SEPTEMBER 1999**

Present: Councillors Ward (Chairman), Mrs Doyle, Fawcett  
Harrison, Mrs Hayes, Ryan, Mrs Shillcock, Mrs Sutcliffe  
and Wheaton

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bailey

**13. Substitute Member**

The Sub Committee noted the attendance of the following Substitute Member under Standing Order No. 38:

Councillor Ryan for Councillor Bailey

**14. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Sub Committee held on 14 July 1999 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**15. Summary of OFSTED Inspection Report on Kennel Lane Special School (Item 1)**

The Sub Committee received a report from the Director of Education on the main findings of a recent inspection at Kennel Lane Special School. Mrs Calcroft, the Head Teacher, and Mrs Wheaton, one of the Governors, were present to answer any detailed questions on the inspection report. The Director of Education referred to the late publication of the report, thereby delaying the Action Plan, which was now not due until late October. He also referred to comparisons with other schools, paragraph 4.3 of his report, which did not apply in respect of Special Schools.

The summary detailed the main findings of the inspection and the Sub Committee was pleased to note that the inspection had found at least satisfactory provision and in many areas very good provision. The report highlighted weaknesses in the following areas:

- Narrow overall provision for aged 16-19
- Multi-cultural experiences
- Curriculum monitoring across key stages
- Limited artefacts for use in geography and history
- Standards and quality of education in music

Mrs Calcroft referred to plans to strengthen the weaknesses outlined. She felt that this was a report to be proud of, due to the hard work and commitment of all the staff and Governors concerned and she wanted to note the support received from the Education Department, particularly the attached Adviser.

In conclusion the Sub Committee recorded its best wishes and appreciation of the excellent work of the staff and governors of Kennel Lane School.

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

16. **Progress in Support of School Governors' Post-OFSTED Action Plans, April to September 1999 (Item 2)**

The Director of Education reported on the progress of the LEA Action Plan for Garth Hill School in response to the key issues for action identified in the OFSTED inspection report. He emphasised that this was not a review of the school's action plan, neither was it an assessment.

Appendix A of the report focussed on the progress on all key issues for action and Appendix B, produced by two external consultants employed to work with the school, concentrated on key issue 1, improving pupils' behaviour. It was clear from both reports that at least satisfactory progress was being made on all the key issues for action.

The Sub Committee noted that HMI would visit the school for two days at the end of the month and their observations would give the opportunity to review the plans.

Two particular matters referred to in some detail were the problems with the enforcement of school uniform and of litter around the school site.

Mrs Keefe, the Acting Principal, tabled two papers, one evaluating the Garth Hill School post-OFSTED Action Plan, and the second outlining three proposed key goals for her eight-month tenure. In addition she outlined three further targets:

- to achieve a shift of culture
- to investigate the boy/girl ratio – the action plan did not acknowledge that there were more boys in school than girls
- to focus on a professional development programme for managers

In connection with the last target, Mrs Keefe urged the LEA to do all they could to raise the morale of the staff.

The Sub Committee, in thanking Mrs Keefe, stated that it was impressed by her analysis and proposals and the remarkable amount she had accomplished in her first 22 days.

**RESOLVED** that the report and the progress made to date be noted.

17. **The Performance in 1999 National Curriculum Assessments and Public Examinations of Pupils in Bracknell Forest (Provisional Results) (Item 3)**

The Sub Committee received the Director of Education's report outlining the provisional performance figures in the 1999 National Curriculum end of key stage assessments and GCSE and GCE examinations for pupils in Bracknell Forest Schools. In addition he gave an oral report on further figures received since the publication of the agenda.

The Sub Committee noted an overall increase in the achievement of Bracknell Forest pupils, most of which were in excess of the national figures reported at the meeting. The exception was key stage 4, which had only very marginally increased from last year and was not in line to meet the EDP target for 2002, and post-16 results which

were lower than last year. However, in future years there should be a proportional increase in KS4 results, following on from the current good results in KS2 and 3.

The Sub Committee requested the Director of Corporate Services to consider in future holding this September meeting later in the cycle, to enable more of the figures to be included in the circulated report.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 5.30pm  
and concluded at 7.20pm

**CHAIRMAN**