

SCHOOL STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE

Wednesday 1 April 2009

Present: Councillor S Clarke (Chair)

Councillors T Smith
F Doyle

Co-opted member: Mrs M Liddy

Apologies: Mrs M Cain

18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The members of the Committee were asked to consider whether they had a personal or prejudicial interest in connection with any item on the agenda and, if so, to declare it and to state the nature of the interest. The following declaration was made:

Councillor Doyle – a personal interest in minute 20 by virtue of his being Chair of Governors of Woodchurch Road Primary School

19 PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN OFSTED CATEGORIES

Marie Lawrence, Strategic Service Manager (Early Years & Primary Education), reported on the progress being made by Riverside Primary School in relation to the Notice to Improve issued as a result of the Ofsted inspection in April 2008.

20 PRIMARY SCHOOLS OFSTED INSPECTIONS

The Sub-Committee received a summary of the outcomes of recent Ofsted inspections of primary schools. The various schools had been graded as follows:

Satisfactory schools

Christ Church C of E Primary, Moreton
Poulton Lancelyn Primary
Cole Street Primary, Birkenhead

Good schools

Woodchurch Road Primary, Birkenhead

Outstanding schools

Oxton St Saviour's C of E Primary

Marie Lawrence described the various actions taken in support of the schools, in particular those in the Satisfactory category, and pointed out that Woodchurch Road

Primary School, judged as Good, had been recognised as having some outstanding features. She also referred to the inspection category of 'contributing to community cohesion', which was a new duty placed on schools.

Resolved – That the reports be noted, letters of commendation be sent to the schools as appropriate, and the Sub-Committee record its particular congratulations to those schools in the Outstanding category.

21 SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN OFSTED CATEGORIES

None.

22 SECONDARY SCHOOL OFSTED INSPECTIONS

The Sub-Committee received a summary of the outcomes of recent Ofsted inspections of secondary schools. The various schools had been graded as follows:

Good schools

Hilbre High
Kilgarth [Special]

Outstanding schools

West Kirby Grammar School for Girls

Mark Parkinson, Head of Learning & Achievement, described the various actions taken in support of the schools, where necessary. He also pointed out that the two schools judged as Good had been recognised as having some outstanding features. In the case of West Kirby Grammar School, every aspect of the School had been judged as outstanding.

Resolved – That

(1) the reports be noted, letters of commendation be sent to the schools as appropriate, and the Sub-Committee record its particular congratulations to those schools in the Outstanding category;

(2) the Sub-Committee receive a report in due course on the assessment of outcomes for post-16 pupils.

23 NATIONAL CHALLENGE - UPDATE

Mark Parkinson, Head of Learning & Achievement, provided an update on the National Challenge programme, which was aimed at ensuring that at least 30% of pupils in every secondary school achieved at least 5 A*-C grades at GCSE, which had to include English and maths. Of the six schools in Wirral's programme, all were making progress towards the target, and some good progress. A recent assessment by National Strategy consultants had found that interventions by the local authority's teams were valued by the schools and were of good quality.

He also reported on the Gaining Ground initiative, which was separate from National Challenge and currently involved two Wirral schools.

Marie Lawrence reported on the One to One initiative, which was based on the Government's guarantee of one-to-one tuition for any pupil that required it. Funding was available for 320 primary places, but it was likely to prove a massive task in recruiting suitably qualified tutors.

Resolved – That the reports be noted and the Sub-Committee receive further updates at future meetings.

24 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 8 JULY**

The Sub-Committee noted the date previously agreed for the next meeting: Wednesday 8 July.