



Elmstead Primary School

Enhanced Healthy School validation visit

16th November 2011

The outcomes identified for the enhanced healthy school process were linked closely to the 'Achievement for All' project for which Elmstead Primary School was one of the pilot schools. The outcomes focused on 4 areas:

- decreasing the number of children who underachieve;
- increasing the number of children who meet or exceed expected yearly attendance targets;
- increasing the number of children who are judged to have improved confidence and self-esteem;
- increasing the number of targeted children who are engaged, for example, through Wide Awake Club.

Discussion with staff, governors and pupils highlighted both the commitment to promoting the health and well-being of pupils and the progress made in meeting the outcomes identified. The visit confirmed that Elmstead Primary School had met the requirements of the enhanced healthy school model.

Children are widely involved in developments through the health and safety / eco schools group and the school council. The school cook talked about the ways in which the views of pupils helped to shape the menus and how the kitchen had become very much part of school life. School meals clearly represented a great success with uptake approaching 50% on average.

Progress had been made on increasing the number of children who meet or exceed expected attendance targets of 96%. It had involved careful monitoring of attendance, including tracking classes and vulnerable groups, although the main issue was the relatively small number of children who are persistently absent and targeting them. There had been a discussion of a reward system and their limitations, even unfairness. In the end the children suggested a model which recognised levels of good attendance over the year.

There was good evidence of the way in which the school had increased levels of confidence and self esteem by meeting the needs of individual children. These included the system developed to support and monitor the progress of children on the SEND register, the Drawing and Talking therapy, speech and language therapy, as well as the Wide Awake Club.

Surveys have been used to identify the perception of pupils and parents regarding key issues. For the most recent pupil survey (early 2011) additional staff support was provided (paid for by Achievement for All) to ensure children understood the questions. This raised the issue of whether this will be possible when the survey is repeated.

The children we met from the Wide Awake Club were great advocates both in terms of what they said and the confidence and clarity with which they spoke. Everyone spoke very highly of the benefits for individual children, although it was difficult to quantify and didn't work for all. Interestingly, a couple of children suggested that some of the approaches were used by their class teachers.

The challenge is to maintain and build on the recent achievements highlighted, which include:

- school meals;
- use of data including attendance, school surveys and the SEND register;
- range of strategies for meeting the specific needs of individuals;
- system for supporting and monitoring children on the SEND register.

Tim Hull

Chris Holmes

22 November 2011