

Stillness Infant and Junior Schools

Consultation on Partnership Work

Introduction

Stillness Infant and Junior Schools are seeking to build on work that they already do in collaboration and partnership in order to develop and deepen the partnership. Improving pupils' and parents' journey through the schools is a fundamental driver for this.

With the support of an external facilitator, the schools have undertaken consultation with staff, governors, pupils and parents on developing their partnership work. Parents were invited to attend one of two workshops to share ideas on what is working well and areas they would like to prioritise for further collaboration. Senior leaders and the respective Chairs of Governors of the two schools were interviewed and discussions held with a representative sample of staff and pupils.

This report provides a summary of the responses of consultees.

Factors that Bring the Schools Together

- Shared site
- Shared site supervisor and learning mentor
- Shared community, pupils and parents
- Joint extended clubs
- Joint catering facility and dining hall being built for both schools
- Staff, parents and pupils are keen to work together and develop the partnership further – there was considerable enthusiasm for working together amongst consultees
- The two headteachers and governing bodies are fully behind the project
- There are good examples of successful collaboration, such as the joint use of the minibus and the music room; the parents' associations work together; office staff collaborate on aspects of business management etc. These provide the impetus to increase the joint work and embed it more widely across the two schools

Priorities

Through the consultation, the following areas were identified by consultees as priority areas for developing wider partnership work.

- Communication both between the schools and between parents and schools
- A shared ethos and aligning the two cultures of the schools more closely together to create a greater sense of being one community

- More shared policies, systems and procedures
- Collaborating on the curriculum, including shared curriculum/themed days and events, so that there is a seamless progression from early years to the end of key stage 2
- More shared staff or joint roles across both schools
- Developing opportunities for staff to work across both schools i.e. Year 2 teacher moving up with the class to teach them in Year 3
- Wider collaboration and joint work on annual processes such as transition, recruiting new parents and pupils, parent consultation meetings
- Opportunities for pupils to work together, especially Junior pupils supporting those in the infants
- More shared use of the buildings and resources
- Governors working together more.

Next Steps

- Further consultation through surveys for pupils, parents and staff to gather a wider range of views and perspectives
- Further feedback to staff, governors and parents from survey responses
- Developing and agreeing plans for collaboration early next term – these will then be implemented over the next academic year
- Sharing plans and progress with parents and other stakeholders
- It is envisaged that a joint committee of representative governors from each governing body will be set up to help oversee the collaboration plan and monitor progress.