

10 March 2008

Dear Parents and Carers

Extended Schools Survey

You will recall that just before Christmas you were offered the opportunity to give us some information to help us look at how we may ensure we meet the Government requirements on Extended Schools.

I apologise for having taken some time to get back to you with the outline results. However, I am pleased to say that the reason for this is because of the strength of response throughout the Cluster of schools for which I do thank you.

An extended school works with the local authority, local providers and other schools to provide access to a core offer of integrated services:

- a varied range of extra curricular activities including study support.
- Access to childcare in primary schools.
- parenting and family support;
- swift and easy access to targeted and specialist services;
- community access to facilities including adult and family learning, ICT and sports grounds.

There is evidence that extended services can help to:

- improve pupil attainment, self-confidence, motivation and attendance;
- reduce exclusion rates;
- better enable teachers to focus on teaching and learning;
- enhance children's and families access to services.

The survey concentrated on three areas of Extended Schools provision. The overall picture from those who responded from Milton Primary School, gave us some interesting information.

Childcare

The school recently undertook a survey of childcare before and after school so it is not duplicated here. This survey concentrated on holiday provision.

- 24% of those responding currently use childcare during holidays. Representing 26 families.
- 26% of those responding who do not utilise childcare during holidays would consider using childcare if the circumstances were right. Representing 28 families.

Whilst we must recognise that not all those who say they will take up opportunities will eventually go on to use any services provided, these numbers suggest a need to give consideration to additional childcare opportunities.

Therefore in this area of provision, we intend to share our results with 'Kids R Us' to ensure they are aware of potential need and can look to match that with any spare capacity in their current service.

Varied Menu (Extra Curriculum Clubs)

For Milton Primary School we gathered information on the activities of 132 children and discovered that between them they undertook 281 activities during weekdays. These activities include school initiated, non school and national organisations such as Scouts and Guides. On average children at this school undertake 2 activities per week and these can take place before school, at lunch time and after school. It is to be noted that some children undertake substantially more activities and lead very active lives.

The nature of these activities have been split over three disciplines being the Arts, Sport and other, including national organisations. For this school the split is as follows

- Arts (32%)

- Sport (50%)
- Other (18%)

We found that throughout the cluster sport was well provided, thanks to the very successful sports partnership. It is through this partnership we hope to strengthen this area where necessary.

It is the intention of this cluster to look at how we may develop arts opportunities both for young people and for families learning together.

Parental Support and Advice

It is to be noted that Impington Village College has an extensive support programme for parents and carers, 'Learning to Learn Together', some of which is appropriate to those with children in primary education, specifically years five and six.

The survey was split into two areas; supporting parents and carers in social care areas such as behaviour and what to expect when children reach adolescence; and support for parents in understanding the teaching and learning of young people.

In this part of the survey parents at Milton Primary School identified three main areas where particular support was needed;

Social Areas

- Help with managing behaviour at home (33%)
- Adolescence – What to expect (30%)
- Ways to cope with problems between brothers/sisters (25%)

Teaching and Learning areas

- How numeracy is taught (57%)
- How Literacy is taught (54%)
- Helping with homework (50%)

Taking this into consideration and bearing in mind the needs across the cluster as a whole, it is envisaged that as the Coordinator of Extended Schools in the Cluster I will be developing parenting support, information and advice across the cluster in association with the Impington Village College programme.

Thank you once again for the volume of returns and I hope you will, over the coming months, be able to participate in any of the emerging initiatives.

Regard

Alan Orme

Extended Schools Coordinator – Impington Cluster