



Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA)

Verification Report

School name:	Nook Lane Junior School
School address and postcode:	Nook Lane, Stannington, Sheffield, S6 6BN
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Head teacher:	Steve Arbon-Davis
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Award verifier:	Andy Taylor
Award adviser (if applicable):	School-led approach
Date of verification:	7 June 2019

Commentary on the evidence provided:

The portfolio evidences a range of documentation which reflects a school which strongly believes in working in a true partnership with parents. The evidence is comprehensive and well organised. All the key performance indicators are evidenced and meet the requirements of the award.

- The action plan is based on a secure self-assessed evidence base.
- Leaders effectively monitor progress towards the award and analyse the impact of actions.
- All stakeholders have been kept well informed about development towards the award.
- The development of parental engagement strategies are an integral part of the school's improvement priorities.
- The school uses a range of methods of communication. As a result, parents feel well informed.

- The school's recent Ofsted inspection (March 2019) evidenced the very positive views of parents.
- There are many, and varied, opportunities for parents to be involved in activities where they work alongside their children.
- Parents have opportunities to come into school and talk to the pupils about their chosen careers. These talks help to broaden the pupils' understanding of the varied career paths available to them.
- The school has strong links with, and is an integral part of, the local community.
- Leaders have developed very thorough induction events and documentation. Because of this, parents feel well informed as their children start the school. All aspects of induction are fully evaluated to ascertain effectiveness.
- Details of themes being taught are sent home regularly.
- There are many parent volunteers who support in school. In addition to this, the school is proactive in using the parents' skills and interests to provide the pupils with enriched learning opportunities.
- The school has well-developed links with external agencies and together provide a network of support to families.
- Parents are provided with helpful guidance to support their children in a range of curriculum areas.
- Parents were kept well informed about the recent academisation of the school.
- The school uses a variety of rewards to celebrate individuals' achievements, in both academic and personal development aspects of the curriculum.
- Parent and pupil voice are well developed and effective in contributing to school development. For example, pupils are part of curriculum groups for all subjects. These groups meet regularly to discuss how provision in subjects can be developed.
- The school provides bespoke support for pupils and families within all year groups. This is particularly effective as the pupils move onto secondary education.
- A tour of the school evidenced a school with high expectations which is reflected in the quality of the learning environment. There are very strong relationships between staff and pupils. As a result, pupils feel secure, safe and not afraid to make mistakes.

Strengths identified during verification:

Leadership and Management

- Parental engagement is a central principle of the school and leaders feel it is an integral part of the school improvement journey. Leaders have a clear moral purpose underpinning their work.
- The LPPA co-ordinator has been extremely effective in her role. She has undertaken tasks in a very thorough and methodical manner. All stakeholders have been well informed about developments towards achieving the award.
- Leaders are very reflective practitioners and priorities for the school are borne from a firm evidence base.
- The school has a clear vision of how it wants to develop parental engagement in the future.
- The governors are fully committed to developing parental partnership, where being a part of the community is of high importance. They both support and challenge leaders to ensure strategies adopted by the school are effective.

Staff

- All the staff interviewed demonstrated a commitment to working in partnership with the parents. They valued how working together, outcomes for pupils can be improved.
- Staff are very enthusiastic and eager to further strengthen the provision for the pupils.
- All feel fully involved in the development of parental engagement. They value the contributions of parents. Mutual respect is clearly evident.
- Staff are very responsive to the needs of parents and are flexible in their approaches.
- A variety of workshops have been organised for parents to help them support their children in their learning. Some of these workshops have been organised following suggestions from parents.

Parents

- Parents are very appreciative of the staff and feel confident in approaching school if they have any queries or worries. They value the regular contact with staff and school leaders.
- They feel that communication is a real strength of the school.
- There is a wide range of workshops which they can attend and following these, the parents are more confident in supporting their children using the same methods as the school.
- Documentation parents receive is helpful, informative and free from unnecessary educational jargon.
- Parents feel valued by the school.
- The “Friends of Nook Lane” greatly contribute to the school’s wider provision. They organise various events including regular discos, summer and Christmas fairs, cinema events as well as a touring circus. These greatly enhance the social opportunities for the children. In addition, they raise considerable sums of money to spend on much-needed resources and contribute to travel costs to educational visits.

Pupils

- The pupils are very proud of their school and value the ways in which their parents are involved. They said it was a place where, “parents are really encouraged to support and help.”
- All pupils value their education and have aspirations. Parents who have come into school to talk about their careers have widened pupils’ aspirations.

Impact:

- The LPPA award has provided a framework against which the school can benchmark its practices; key areas on which to focus upon have been identified.
- Parents are extremely grateful to a school team who are very approachable and helpful.
- The school has continued to build upon its current success working with the parents and the local community.
- Feedback from parents via the various methods used by the school, reflect the positive relationship between the school and the parent body.



Areas for development:

- Explore the use of social media to further strengthen communication with stakeholders.
- Continue to develop the range of workshops across the whole curriculum.

Verifier recommendation:

- The school to be awarded the LPPA Award for a period of three years.

Head teacher comments:

Having had prior experience of working towards and gaining the LPPA (2013-2016), as a school we felt in a good place this time around, regarding what we wanted to achieve and what we wanted to further develop.

The process, as well as the subsequent review and report, have been an affirmation of the work that we do alongside parents, carers and the school community. We would like to thank Andy Taylor for the thorough way in which conducted the LPPA assessment and for the high-quality discussions that took place with all stakeholders. It didn't feel like a tick sheet approach because sufficient time was given to each aspect of the assessment. We found the conversations to be highly beneficial. Andy was clear about the many strengths in evidence at Nook Lane and was fair and realistic regarding next steps for the school.

It felt very much like a celebratory day for all stakeholders, especially so for the LPPA leader, headteacher, teachers, parents, governors and pupils that were most involved in the interview process.

Needless to say, that after securing the award, we will not be resting on our laurels. We intend to continue our high-quality work and we already have a plan to address the next steps.

Thank you.

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