

Resources Deployed to Prevent Problems Getting Worse at Craigefnparc (CCP) Primary School Support Briefing Paper 2016 – 2018

During these two years, it is estimated that the school has received in excess of 75 days of officer time to support school improvement i.e. curriculum, leadership, governor support and pastoral support. This is close to the amount that should be received in a five-year period. In addition, the local authority has funded an acting headteacher at the school since 2 November 2015. The resources provided to prevent the school declining do not include senior officer time in dealing with parental complaints, human resource matters and challenging progress at the school.

Background

- September 2013 – school judged as a school causing concern – adequate/adequate - challenge adviser (CA)
- May 2014 letter sent to CCP by lead challenge adviser in response to letter from the chair of governors where she had complained about the school's categorisation
- Spring 2014 review by local authority (LA) as part of second core visit (SCV) – literacy and numeracy focus. *Many of the recommendations identified at SCV 2014 still not addressed in January 2016. This was raised by the CA with the Deputy Headteacher in January 2016.*
- September 2014 – range of issues identified during the autumn core visit (ACV) by new CA
- Categorisation - Amber. Headteacher assured parents that in the subsequent year the school would be categorised as Yellow in a presentation to parents on 11 March 2015. This was despite it being stated by the CA in the ACV report that the school was on the cusp of being categorised Red. (Presentation on the school website)
- Regular support from (CA) throughout academic year 2014/2015 in preparation for the impending inspection, addressing the priorities from the ACV and recommendations from the last Estyn inspection, which had yet to be addressed. Support package of 15 days planned for during 2014-2015 academic year.
- May 2015 parental complaint – dealt with and resolved by chair of governors.
- Early spring 2015 work scrutiny and lesson observations undertaken as part of SCV – foundation phase (FP) judged barely adequate in lesson observations
- Estyn inspection May 2015 – placed in Estyn monitoring (see below)

6 recommendations:

1. Raise standards in reading and mental maths, particularly in key stage 2
2. Improve pupils' Welsh oracy skills across the school
3. Ensure that all teachers match tasks to pupils' ability levels and promote their independent learning skills
4. Raise levels of attendance
5. Develop the role of the governing body and senior leadership team in moving the school forward
6. Ensure that self-evaluation procedures lead to continuous improvement

- Summer 2015 - CA met with headteacher to support a post inspection action plan (PIAP).
- September 2015 - previous CA, new CA and headteacher met to review progress made by headteacher in drafting the PIAP – draft was barely adequate.
- Parental complaints escalate when the Estyn inspection report is published.
- By October 2015 – headteacher, deputy headteacher and senior teacher are on leave. Two Consultative Leaders (CL) are put in place to run the school and prevent deterioration of a critical situation. Local authority provides this resource to the school.
- Fire inspection report discovered by CLs. Nothing addressed since receipt of the report on 18 September 2015. Fire officer deems that without immediate action, the school could be closed.
- December 2015 written complaint received from parents raising concerns relating to inspection outcomes, staff sickness, standards, provision (including SEN) and communication. Chair of Governors met with representatives of the parent body as per the complaints policy. Main issues are leadership and provision at the school.
- December 2015 fire actions finalised – recognition from local authority after support from Health and Safety officer.

Local Authority Response/Resource Following Inspection

- Officer (CA) supported the acting headteacher to plan improvements in a post inspection action plan (PIAP)
- CA reviewed progress at fortnightly visits
- CA attended monthly meetings with PIAP governing body committee to review progress against the PIAP targets
- CA brokered support for literacy, numeracy and foundation phase performance specialists
- CA arranged school-to-school support for guided reading
- CA organised training for governors and staff on preparing for Estyn revisit
- Increased visits from Welsh support officer
- Head of Education Improvement visits the school to consider progress

Local Authority Response/Resource to Wider Issues

- Consultative Leadership (CL) support from two serving headteachers
- October 2015 ACV – categorisation is Red as no recommendations from previous ACV/inspection had been addressed and all senior staff off sick. Red support package of up to 25 days in place.
- October 2015 CLs addressed fire inspection action plan
- October 2015 CLs addressed on-going issues with parents through a parents' meeting
- 2 November 2015 acting headteacher funded by the LA brought to the school because of high risk