

South Area Committee- SIB

Monday 7th January 2008

Richard Avenue Primary School – Building Learning Power £2,000 bid.

How has the money been spent?

The overall cost of the project was £38,000. This was managed by Lesley Fairley from the LA and works were carried out by Lumsden and Carroll- both did an excellent job.

The funding contributed towards capital costs:

- Planning regulations and management costs.
- Brick built exterior, flat roof
- Suspended ceiling, electrics, heating
- Decorating, carpets

Outcomes of project?

The aim was to provide a facility that could be utilised within school, to support our diverse community in their own learning and therefore enhance the learning of their children.

Sessions held throughout the years:

- 2 x 3h per week –English classes for adults- supported by the WEA and school bi-lingual staff- 10 parents per session.
- 1 x 2.5h per week- Small Talk project for ME parents- supported by Sure Start and EMAT team 15 parents per session.
- 1 x 3h per week – parent ‘nurture’ classes – 8 parents per session.
- 1 x 2h per week – nursery parents support Rhyme and Time sessions – supported by Sure Start- 6 parents per session.
- 1 x 3h per week- sibling classes- young children of RAPS work alongside KS2 RAPS or KS3 siblings from Thornhill. – 15 older siblings at learning session, 30 siblings at teaching session.
- 1 x 2.5 h per week- Community Health Clinic –(From 5th November 07)

Not all sessions are running all year.

Having the facility in school enables us to utilise that room for it’s main purpose or swop rooms, which ever is suitable for the activity. E.g. some parent nurture classes have taken place in the library which was a more suitable environment, the small group of children for that session have worked in the ‘community’ room.

Successful?

Objectives:1. Increase the level of involvement between school and the local community
2. Promote social inclusion.

- Parents have attended!! Regular attendance has always been an issue, but this had greatly improved.
- Approximately 5 Bengali parents have followed up sessions by supporting in school, with 3 commencing their Teaching Assistants qualifications.

- Some parents have become directly more involved in school, there is also a knock on effect with many other parents, knowing that school is increasingly accessible to learn, discuss concerns and also supportive of the school. Many more parents attend other events- Concerts, assemblies, parents evenings.) The climate is most definitely changing.

Objectives: 3. Raise educational aspirations and expectations.

4. Raise standards – parents supporting their children.

These objectives are more difficult to quantify and may take a lot longer to have an impact. Through discussion with children and a variety of responses from home- homework, parents asking questions of teachers, more children are getting support from home, by a variety of teenagers and adults. This must eventually have an impact.

Other Funding?

We have been successful only within SIB and Community Chest, however Sure Start, WEA, EMAT support to develop the sessions on offer, would not have had access to the school due to the lack of facilities.

Key lessons and issue from project?

The funding has enabled the project to be sustainable, as we can provide the majority of human resources with some outside support, but without the capital funding the project would not have been as sustainable. It would be totally reliant upon the school providing suitable accommodation, at a convenient time to all.

Future Planning?

The overall project is continuing with some sessions ceasing or changing due to providers but is generally self- financing.

- Bi-lingual staff from school budget- some funding from sure start grant.
- Grant application for WEA staff- adult learning.

Richard Avenue School has been a dramatically changing school and has welcomed support from various bodies, such as the Strategic Initiative Committees. I hope one day the school becomes involved in a LA strategic project in a targeted way. The willingness is there, the vulnerable groups are there, the next generation are waiting!