

CPD Federation

Newsletter

Issue 11.

SCHOOLS' BUDGETS AND CHALLENGES



All political parties pledged more funding for schools in their election campaigns; let's hope the Conservative party elected to govern keep their promises! I just wanted to point out that the additional money coming into schools over the next few years will only go some way to reverse the pressures placed on schools since 2010. On the current promises, by 2023 schools should get back to a financial position equivalent to 2010 but prices have gone up and schools have to pay for more than ever before from their own budgets. So whilst every extra pound that comes into schools is welcomed, do not think that all the challenges will have disappeared.

Both schools want to provide the best quality of education they can but to do so means having to find the money to pay for some of the extra activities that happen in school. Ofsted are looking at the quality of education in many ways but two that relate particularly to parents contributions would be the educational visits we build into our curriculum experiences and the after school provision we provide. Both these activities require funding. Educational visits require parental contributions and after-school clubs are charged at a level to cover costs involved.

As parents, you have always supported the schools and you regularly congratulate us on the many wonderful activities that take place. Please continue to support your child's education and take advantage of the provision we are providing for you. At both schools, Educational Visits are an integral part of our curriculum. It is very rare we have to cancel a visit because of your support but remember we may have to cancel a visit if we do not get enough parental contributions. At Central Park the after-school provision is more established than at Dersingham. We do want to develop this at Dersingham but have to know that the need is there and, if it goes ahead, have the commitment that charges will be paid. Look out next term for a questionnaire for your views on what the extended services could look like.

FEDERATION GROWTH PLAN

Currently other schools in the local authority are actively asking us for support. As a result, Governors have spent a couple of sessions discussing the Federation and any plans to grow. We now have a simple growth plan in place that asks a few questions:

1. What will the benefits be to the pupils already in our schools?
2. Can we improve outcomes for the pupils in a school seeking to join the CPD Schools Federation?
3. Do we have the capacity in the staff team to make this successful?
4. Does the school wishing to join us subscribe to the values of the CPD Schools Federation and demonstrate commitments, or have the potential to do so?



Part of our reason to consider growth is to help the Federation gain financial sustainability—with more schools sharing the costs, we can build a team of staff for school improvement. We also want to make sure that the leadership teams in each school can continue to develop themselves and contribute to the Federation as a whole. Another reason to join up with other schools is so we can develop our expertise further if the new school brings areas they are very good at to the Federation.

CPD Schools Federation has no desire to be a huge Federation with lots and lots of schools involved but does have the desire to grow sensibly over the next few years to about 5-6 schools. Central Park and Dersingham are both in a secure position, with great things happening and outcomes continuing to improve. We are not seeking to take on schools who are very challenged but ones we can learn from. Should a local opportunity to grow over the next six months emerge we trust your support will be there to ensure even more children in the LA can leave their school reaching at least the national expectation in their learning.



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

I have written about safeguarding before explaining that staff have a duty to report any safeguarding concerns on to the named teacher in charge of safeguarding—the Designated Safeguarding Lead. This is to make sure that children are safe. Any reports made are considered by the staff and if necessary they are referred on to social care and other services. It is never personal to a family or individual parent; it is always to make sure the child is safe. If the report is more complex then advice is sought before we do anything formal.

Staff have the right to carry out their duty and be able to come to school without worrying how a parent may react to being told what the school has had to do, or maybe even as a result of social care having made a house visit. Everyone is thinking of the child in these circumstances. Safeguarding is not an individual's responsibility, so please remember that whilst it maybe only certain members of staff who have to make the eventual referral anyone in the school will have done the same.



We are proud of our safeguarding record. We may not get everything 100% right, 100% of the time but we need to work together to keep your child and all children safe.

SCHOOL DATES—TERM TIME INFORMATION

A reminder, that each school returns with an Inset Day on **Monday 6th January**. Children return to school on **Tuesday 7th January**. Our schools dates for the rest of this year and the dates for next year are on the school's website so please do look before booking any holidays.



As has been mentioned in other newsletters, term-time requests for leave have risen hugely the last year or so. This is having a big impact on our school attendance. Under Ofsted, a school with attendance that is below the national average is highly unlikely to be judged 'outstanding'. To be outstanding is surely the ambition of the school community along with Governors and staff. The schools can be providing an exceptional quality of education but that one factor will be problematic.

Please remember both schools finish relatively early at the end of the summer, before many local schools and nationally. This is planned in attempt to support you as parents should you have to buy flight tickets. It will hopefully still be a bit cheaper that weekend. Governors support the schools in taking a firm stance on term-time leave, encouraging the Headteachers to not authorise term-time leave requests and report on to the LA any parents who still take the leave.

Please help us in our pursuit of being 'outstanding' schools.

END OF TERM EVENTS

Each school holds a number of end of term events and trust that you have enjoyed/will enjoy them. Both schools are large and many of you have a number of children who attend the schools, in different year groups. Whilst we try and cater for all this we know it is difficult for you attend everything (especially if you work) or get to see what all your children have done. If you have other ideas for what you would like to see or can suggest ways to improve what we currently do, then do let us know. We want to make sure the celebrations are fun and informative for everyone and enhance the learning of all the children too.



ENJOY THE CHRISTMAS BREAK

To all those families who will be celebrating Christmas may I wish a wonderful time. Wishing everyone else an enjoyable festive season. As always I hope you all get to have family time together over the break. Very best wishes for 2020.

Darren Williams, Executive Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darren Williams".