

Aire Valley Nursery Schools Collaboration



This issue Staff training across the Collaboration and The Future of Nursery Schools

In June 2017 Governors at Abbey Green, Strong Close and Midland Road Nursery Schools entered into a collaboration. The vision for our collaboration is to:

- learn and build from the past;
- face the challenges of the future;
- secure opportunities for the future;
- aim for all 3 nursery schools to be outstanding, so families choose to bring their families to the nursery schools;
- work together on a long term strategy for sustainability and development.

In this edition we share some of the progress we have been making as well as the challenges that Nursery Schools face, both locally and nationally.

“TELL ME AND I WILL FORGET,
TEACH ME AND I WILL REMEMBER,
INVOLVE ME AND I WILL LEARN”

Benjamin Franklin

Joint Training for Collaboration Staff

There have been a number of joint staff training events over the last term. In October all 3 schools came together to look at “Understanding and Supporting Young Children’s Behaviour” as well as focusing on identifying and supporting children with Special Educational Needs. A key message was that we need to look for ways in which we can support children’s learning at all times, here are some of the strategies we discussed. A helpful reminder for staff but also helpful guidance for parents as well.

Steps to conflict resolution

1. Approach calmly and with an open mind
2. Walk over and get down to their level.
3. Acknowledge feelings
4. Say “I can see you’re feeling hurt/cross/upset/angry”
5. Gather information from both sides
6. Say “What’s the problem?”
7. Restate the problem
8. Say “so the problem is...”
9. Ask for solutions and choose one together
10. Say “I wonder what we can do to solve the problem/help you feel better?”
11. Be prepared to give follow-up support
12. Keep an eye out for what happens next and give further support if needed.



Separate events were also held including a chance for teachers from all 3 schools to share their planning and review their strengths and areas for development. Practitioners also met together and shared examples of observations and how they have used them to support childrens learning through their interests and play. It was inspiring to see staff across all 3 schools coming together and share their practice.

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In the summer 2018 Members of Parliament asked Nursery Schools to ask their parents...

How has your
Nursery School
helped your child and family?



These are some of the things are parents told us

Have you seen our recent booklet “How has Nursery School helped your child and family?”. It provides an inspiring read about the impact we have on the lives of children and families, make sure you take time to have a look – there are copies in all schools main entrance. Thankyou to everyone who took the time to share their views – we have sent copies to our local MP’s so that they can understand what an important part nurseries play in their communities.

THE FUTURE OF NURSERY OF NURSERY SCHOOLS IN DANGER !

Findings from a survey conducted by ‘Early Education’ one of most important organisations supporting Nursery Schools revealed:

- Three in ten nursery schools said their future is on a ‘knife edge’, with some in discussions with local authorities about closing.
- Two-thirds are operating on a lower budget to 2016-17 and 60 per cent say their budget will be lower in the next financial year.
- By 2019-20, the number of MNS’ with budget deficits is set to triple. More than 60 per cent of heads think their budget will be in deficit by 2020 when transitional funding runs out.

‘We’ve heard warm words from the minister about the unique and the vital role maintained nursery schools play in our education system, now we need to see urgent action and a recognition from ministers that nursery schools are schools, so that we secure future funding so these vital institutions don’t wither on the vine and die out entirely.’

Lucy Powell MP
Chair of the APPG on Nursery Schools, Nursery and Reception Classes.

Some facts about the Aire Valley Nursery Schools Collaboration

Across the 3 Nursery Schools in the Aire Valley Nursery Collaboration currently we have;

303 children on roll,

85 staff,

22 governors and

17 different languages are spoken by children in our schools.



Sharon Hogan
Acting Executive Headteacher
Aire Valley Nursery Schools Collaboration