



Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA)

Verification Report

Academy name:	Ernest Bevin College
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Award verifier:	Andy Taylor
Award adviser (if applicable):	Andy Taylor
Date of verification:	21 October 2021

Commentary on the portfolio:

The portfolio evidences a range of documentation which reflects a school that 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.

- By regularly reviewing the action plan, leaders effectively monitor progress towards the award and analyse the impact of actions.
- The development of parental engagement strategies is an integral part of the school's improvement priorities.
- Governors are kept well informed about progress towards the award and have a clear understanding of the impact of leaders' actions. They could talk in depth about specific initiatives introduced.
- The school uses a range of methods of communication. As a result, parents feel very well informed.
- Parents are provided with helpful guidance to support their children.
- Parents were kept well informed about their child's progress. Reports are clear and easy to follow.

- Both induction and transition arrangements are highly effective. Where necessary, bespoke support is provided to ensure both student and the wider family are helped.
- There are well developed systems to celebrate both the school's and students' successes.
- Overtime, all stakeholders have been kept well informed about progress towards the award.

Strengths identified during verification:

Leadership and Management

- In terms of its development, the leadership and management of the Leading Parent Partnership Award has been excellent over a period of time when schools have faced considerable external challenges.
- Leaders have a clear moral purpose underpinning their work. They are determined to build on the many strengths the school now has with regard to parent partnership. Next steps have already been identified. These show clearly where the school will develop practice over the next three years. Priorities for school are borne from a firm evidence base.
- Over time, leaders have ensured that parents feel their views and suggestions are valued.
- Governors are fully committed to working in partnership with both parents and the local community.

Staff

- All the staff interviewed demonstrated a commitment to working in partnership with the parents. They are very enthusiastic and eager to further strengthen the provision for the students.
- Communication between the school and parents has improved and there are now very efficient systems in place. They felt that the pandemic has encouraged even more parents to use on-line systems to communicate.
- Staff are very responsive to the needs of parents and are flexible in their approaches. They recognise the importance of positive relationships with parents.

Parents

- Parents are very appreciative of the staff and feel confident in approaching the school if they have any queries or worries. They value the regular contact with staff, including the Principal who is always present at events outside of normal school hours. Moreover, they know that any issues will be addressed swiftly.
- Communication is a real strength of the school and parents felt that all issues or queries were followed up immediately. One parent stated, "...communication at Ernest Bevin is excellent and staff are so quick to respond to any query."
- Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, parents feel the school has been extremely supportive. Staff have maintained regular contact with families throughout the lockdown.
- When parents receive reports and other information, these are free from unnecessary educational jargon.

Students

- Students are proud of their school and were very keen to talk about all aspects of school life. They clearly enjoyed learning and were confident to talk about their favourite subjects and the wealth of other enrichment activities.
- They genuinely appreciated the support and guidance provided by the staff. Students felt that there is always a trusted adult to turn when they had any worries or concerns.
- Students talked about the ways in which staff and their parent work together to support them achieve of their best.

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.
- The LPPA co-ordinator has been extremely effective in her role. She has undertaken tasks in a very thorough and methodical manner. The portfolio reflects great attention to detail.
- Parents are extremely grateful to a school team who are very approachable and helpful. Feedback from parents via the various methods used by the school, reflect the positive relationship between the school and the parent body.
- Staff are determined to continue to strengthen their partnership with parents.

Areas for development:

- Following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, to provide many opportunities for parents to visit and contribute to the life of the school.
- Continue to focus on the harder to reach parents to encourage them to be actively involved.

Verifier recommendation:

- Ernest Bevin College to be awarded the LPPA Award for a period of three years.