

SCHOOL STANDARDS – KEY ACTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT



Given our determination to improve the life chances of pupils and young people as outlined in our Plan for Education, the following highlights the key actions taking place to raise educational standards across the city:

- **Plymouth Education Board** – This Board has now been established and membership includes key stakeholders concerned with improving standards. The Board is strategic in nature and is designed to identify and drive citywide priorities for education, hold all schools and settings to account for performance, and to commission support on a city - wide basis.
- **'Plymouth Challenge'** – A partnership of schools, the Regional School's Commissioner's office and the Local Authority designed to raise standards. School led by Head Teachers, the 'Challenge' aims to raise attainment and progress initially in secondary schools so that all pupils attain at levels that allow them to progress onto the next steps in education and/or training and employment. The project has the full support of the DFE.
- **School to School Support** – A process where schools in need of support are identified and offered bespoke support which lasts usually for a year. Support is provided by Head Teachers from schools that are judged to be at least good by Ofsted. This process is led by Plymouth Teaching Schools Alliance (PTSA) and is well established. The progress of schools needing support is reviewed every six weeks.
- **Intensive support for maintained schools** – This is provided by LA officers and involves constructing a clear plan of action with the school concerned and closely monitoring implementation and impact. One primary school is at present, receiving intensive support.
- **Multi Academy Trust CEO Network** – A group of the CEOs of the 15 Multi Academy Trusts which contain approximately 75% of our schools. It meets on a termly basis and explores school improvement initiatives, shares school improvement strategies and helps to build a coherent picture of support across all schools.
- **Maintained Schools Network** – A network of maintained schools led by LA Officers. Meets on a termly basis to co-ordinate support for maintained schools.
- **Disadvantaged Pilot** – This is a pilot project being led by the Regional Schools Commissioner's office, Bristol. It focuses on those schools where the gaps in attainment between disadvantaged and non – disadvantaged pupils are particularly high. It will involve schools receiving support from an education adviser who is a specialist in helping schools narrow and ultimately close the gaps in performance between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils. It will also provide the opportunity for targeted schools to work in a trio of schools with one being a school that has been very successful in closing attainment gaps.
- **Oracy Project** – A project designed to improve the speech and language skills of pupils in both primary and secondary schools. It directly involves 31 schools and is a two - year project. It is led by PTSA and has received grant funding of £374, 000. Recent evaluations point to the project having a very positive impact on pupils' speech and language skills.
- **Leadership Bid** – A second grant funded bid made by PTSA designed to improve the quality of leadership in our schools as a way of raising pupil achievement and in particular closing the gaps in attainment between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils. The bid was originally for £970,000.
- **Early Help Bid** – This is a bid being written to secure extra funding to increase the provision for early help for pupils in the city. This will help to reduce exclusions and raise attainment. It is being led by the Discovery MAT and supported by LA officers.
- **Early Years Numeracy Bid** – A bid made for £46,170 to help improve the attainment of children in the early years. More specifically, it is designed to improve the numeracy skills of

children especially those who qualify for Free School Meals. It is targeted at those schools with the greatest proportion FSM children and the project is being led by LA officers.

- **Work of Plymouth Leadership Advisers** – LA officers continue to meet regularly with Head Teachers of maintained school to challenge and support them by reviewing pupil progress and identifying sources of support.