

## **Extended school services – a community consultation from Nettleham C of E (Voluntary Aided) Junior School.**

### **Setting the scene - the Government's view.**

In June 2005 the Government launched the extended schools prospectus, *Access to Services and Opportunities for All*, which set out its vision for extended services. The Government has said that "we believe that higher standards of attainment go hand in hand with promoting the wellbeing of children and young people. Extending the range of what is on offer to them and their parents helps schools to identify and overcome barriers to attainment early on. Additional activities and services enable children to pursue wider interests, develop new skills and access any specialist help that they might need to resolve difficulties and fulfil their potential. Extended schools should offer children enhanced opportunities for learning, sports and the arts, as well as supporting parents and carers. This is about developing, together, a shared understanding of what a school can be: a place providing high quality teaching and learning focused on high standards of attainment, and also acting as a community 'hub' offering access to the support, often delivered by partners, that children and their families need in order to thrive and achieve."

### **The core offer.**

The Government's Extended Schools Prospectus set out the 'core offer' of activities and support to which it would like all families to have access by 2010:

- Study Support: A good programme of study support activities, including access to arts and cultural activities as well as targeted opportunities such as 'catch up' and Gifted and Talented programmes. This includes school sport - at least two hours each week on high quality PE and school sport beyond the school day. Study support activities such as breakfast clubs, after-school and holiday activities, music tuition, arts and crafts, visits to museums, business and enterprise activities all offer opportunities for children to pursue wider interests, develop new skills and access extra help, where needed. Swift, early referral to wider support services, where necessary, also helps overcome health problems and other barriers to learning.
- Childcare/Activities for Young People to Do: Access to year round, 8am-6pm childcare (including, or consisting of, activities especially for young people), either on the school site, or at a nearby school or provider, with supervised transfer arrangements.
- Parenting Support: Including access to local and national information on parenting support services, transition programmes, family learning opportunities, and manual-based programmes of parenting support.
- Swift and Easy Referral: Access to specialist services including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), speech and language therapy and other health support and social care.

- Community Access: Opening up school ICT, sports and arts facilities to the local community beyond the school day, where appropriate and providing adult learning.

The board of Governors understands that probably not all of these types of activities would be needed in Nettleham, and also that some are already provided via the school, such as sport, languages and music tuition.

### **Consultation and accountability.**

The Education Act 2000 requires schools to consult widely about any extended services they plan to offer and about any proposed charging arrangements. Successful extended schools have found that early, thorough consultation with local authorities, families and communities has been crucial in developing successful activities and support services. It helps to identify local demand and unmet needs, and to communicate the range and timing of the opportunities schools plan to offer. We want to follow this lead.

Schools also need to explain relationships between themselves and any partner providers, by communicating their roles, responsibilities and benefits clearly to all involved. Parents, in particular, need to understand that headteachers and governors will not always have day-to-day accountability for services offered by other providers using the school or other sites.

Schools providing activities direct must devise and publish a charging and fee remission policy, in consultation with parents. A school cannot make any charges to parents unless this policy is in place. Any profits made by a school from providing facilities or services must be reinvested in the school or in the service. However where schools offer extended activities through third-party providers from the voluntary and private sectors, whether on the school site or elsewhere, those providers are not subject to these legal constraints.

### **Your views.**

The board of Governors is currently considering what, in general terms, the extended provision at the Junior School should entail, i.e., what principles we should apply, for example: use of school facilities at/not at weekends; use of/not of the playing field or car park; use only in/not in term time; excluding activity that is not felt to be appropriate and consistent with the ethos of a church school.

In the meantime we need to seek your views on what additional types of services and/or activity the local community needs.

### **Next steps.**

Once we have considered your views we will decide on a small number (possibly one) of types of activity, undertake formal consultations on these, and then commission broad proposals that meet the general type of activity required, and fit with the above principles. For example, if we decide that the extended provision should be based around 'offering more support for working

parents' this does not have to mean only before/after school clubs, it could also include supported activities for joint parent and child cultural activities, e.g. family drama workshops, 'lads and dads cooking lessons', etc.

We shall then agree on the preferred type of proposal, for example, childcare, lifelong learning, health and social services, cultural and sporting activities, then invite detailed tender submissions for this type of provision. Finally we shall choose the best tender, balancing meeting community needs and benefit for the school. We expect the whole process to be completed by July 2008

### **Further information.**

Further information on extended school provision is available via the Junior School website: [www.nettleham-junior.lincs.sch.uk](http://www.nettleham-junior.lincs.sch.uk) .

The Board of Governors would be please to hear your views, by 21/11/2007 on what general types of services and/or activities you would like to see provided via the Junior School under the extended schools initiative.

Please post your comments to:

Mr David Gibbons  
Headteacher  
Nettleham C of E (Voluntary Aided) Junior School  
Mill Hill  
Nettleham  
Lincoln  
LN2 2PE

Or email your comments to:  
Schools'

[enquiries@nettleham-junior.lincs.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@nettleham-junior.lincs.sch.uk) marked 'Extended

Thank you,

The Board of Governors, Nettleham C of E (Voluntary Aided) Junior School