



Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA)

Verification Report

School name:	Deanshanger Primary School
School address and postcode:	The Green, Deanshanger, Northamptonshire MK19 6HJ
School telephone:	01908 8268920
School website:	www.deanshangerprimary.northants.sch.uk
Head teacher:	Mrs Rachel Rice
Head teacher's email:	head@deanshanger.northants-ecl.gov.uk
LPPA coordinator:	Daniel Peel
LPPA coordinator's email:	dpeel@deanshanger.northants.sch.uk
Award verifier:	Maureen Nash
Award adviser (if applicable):	Malcom Weaver Hannah Hall
Date of verification:	8 th July 2020

Commentary on the evidence provided:

The verification of the Leading Parent Partnership Award at Deanshanger Primary School was carried out through a virtual visit in order to comply with government guidelines on school closures and social distancing during a coronavirus pandemic.

The LPPA coordinator and head teacher facilitated a comprehensive range of evidence and the preparation ensured that the verifier was provided with a full picture of parental involvement in the school. There was a discussion with the coordinator and head teacher with a PowerPoint presentation clearly showing how parental involvement has been a school priority, with the embedding of good practice along with new initiatives that have been put in place. Stakeholder groups, including parents, students, staff and governors provided their perceptions through written answers about parental involvement at the school from their viewpoints. The school tour was evidenced through photographs. Deanshanger has clear evidence on how the school has successfully developed since the Interim Visit and how activities and resources will continue to develop. By the Interim, progress had already been made across much of the award and for the Final Verification evidence was mainly required in Objectives 4 & 5, with evaluative evidence in some other objectives.

The LPPA Co-ordinator had clearly documented that these Objectives had been addressed. The evidence confirmed that the school has put in place new initiatives to support and develop parental engagement and has clear plans to build on these successes.

Strengths identified during verification:

The head teacher has a clear vision to develop effective partnerships between home and school in support of her plan for improved attainment and achievement. There has been a strategic approach with parental involvement being included in the School Improvement Plan (SIP) and being a standing agenda item in governor meetings. School has been very open, through having their SIP and LPPA Action Plan on the website.

The coordinator is committed to his role in developing parental involvement through having a rounded view through his experience in the classroom, school office and as a parent in the school. LPPA has been valued as a reflective framework to provide a vehicle for change.

Communications with parents have been thoughtfully developed and increased. These include written and electronic means including a new system of Arbor which includes attendance information, an enhanced website, new twitter account, Tapestry, new electronic newsletter and emails directly to teachers. Face to face daily communication is facilitated through staff being outside before and after school and through daily opportunities for parent/child activities of Run a Mile and Skip to be Fit. The Learning Mentor and SENCo provide additional support for individual children and their parents.

Deanshanger has very much adapted and developed current systems and approaches to meet the needs of pupils and their families during the Covid-19 pandemic. The school has been adaptable and proactive in helping children and families with support and learning activities. These included on-line and printed learning packs, practical activities and Zoom lessons. There was a VE celebration and a Home-School Tour. Parents commented, 'During Covid the school has been fantastic in keeping me up to date and I think it's great that each morning we get a message from Mrs Rice' and 'We are being supported with learning packs for home schooling, online learning sessions via Zoom and regular informative and motivational messages from Mrs Rice'.

The Parent Groups are a useful vehicle for consultation with parents. Groups consist of parents, staff and governors and a wide range of school practice has been discussed with follow-up actions taken. Each meeting has an agenda, but this can be opened further so parents' interests can be discussed. Examples include home learning and the Calculations Policy.

There are many opportunities for parents to share and celebrate their child's learning. School has built on the success of learning events that are 'parent friendly' (coordinator) where parents can see their own child, such as an Eco Science fair, reading mornings and maths mornings. Celebrations of learning are well attended, such as This is Me, Invention Convention and assemblies, 'These have provided such lovely memories for parents and children' (parent). The Diary Den is a new way for individual children to share success with parents through video.

Parents are well informed of their child's learning and progress. Parents receive a 'settling in' report early in autumn with targets and an end of year report, but information is shared throughout the

year, such as through Tapestry, home-school diaries that include information pertinent to each key stage and open book afternoons. The new MyOn Reading App has proven success with 261hours 3 minutes reading time recorded and 1053 books read by 5th June 2020.

Deanshanger has thoughtfully developed ways to help parents feel welcome in the school. Thoughtful consideration has been given to the development of the foyer to ensure a warm welcome. There are now opportunities for staff and parents to meet each day and events are planned with a welcome in mind, including events organised by the active PTA. Comments from parents include, 'It is nice that the teachers are at the gates to welcome children each morning and always willing to talk about any concerns' and 'We are always made to feel welcome. The office staff are very friendly and meet you with a smile. Staff know who all the parents are and greet you by name'.

Children are aware of how their parents know about their learning and different ways their parents could be involved in the school. They identified valued many activities that their parents have been to, 'They both came to the science event – I was very proud'.

Impact:

'The academic journey can only be strong if you can be supported as a child and as a parent' (head teacher). LPPA has supported the school to build strength as a school community.

The evaluation, reflection and development of parental involvement through the LPPA process show the drive and commitment of Deanshanger Primary to school improvement.

Areas for development:

The following areas were agreed between the Verifier, Head Teacher and the LPPA Co-ordinator:

To build on the good practice (silver linings) that has been established in home-school links during the Covid-19 pandemic.

To continually encourage dialogue between parents, school and the community.

Verifier recommendation:

Deanshanger Primary School should be awarded the LPPA for a period of three years.



Leading Parent
Partnership Award

Head teacher comments:

May we use your comment for website/marketing purposes? **Yes / No** (please delete)