

DRAFT

COMPACT BETWEEN BRENT COUNCIL AND DfES

JANUARY 2004 to MARCH 2005

Preamble

1. This compact comprises an agreement between Brent and the DfES to work in partnership to achieve better educational outcomes for children and young people.
2. We share a vision of an education system in which every child;
 - Is accorded equal worth and opportunity
 - Is taught taking into account individual and cultural needs and starting points
 - Enjoys learning
 - Is equipped with the learning and skills they need for life
 - Achieves their full potential
 - Experiences a broad and balanced curriculum
3. It is recognised that Brent fulfils its statutory duty to raise educational standards through its statutory plans, principally the EDP, which are supported by DfES Standards Fund monies and advice from DfES Advisers. Brent's ambition is to match national standards in the context of greater than average needs.

This compact addresses other priorities agreed locally by the Council.

4. These priorities are:-

4.1 Brent 3 – 16 Curriculum Statement

The development of a Brent 3 – 16 Curriculum statement which redefines the concept of a broad and balanced curriculum and gives due emphasis to the creative arts, citizenship, individual learning styles, sport, recognition for out of school achievements and entitlements to such activities as residential experiences for personal and social development

Brent Action

The statement will be developed in partnership with schools and will be used by the LEA in monitoring and evaluating the success of a school alongside such factors as attainment in performance tests. Brent LEA will:

- Support schools through a programme of differentiated assistance provided by the School Improvement Service

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- Support Governing Bodies in exercising their responsibilities for the curriculum
- Provide a programme of CPD related to the curriculum for teachers and support staff
- Provide targeted support for individual and groups of pupils to promote their access to the curriculum
- Support from other Departments of the Council to provide the broader curriculum

DfES Support

- Support through the National Primary and KS3 Strategies
- Maintain Standards Fund arrangements
- Support for the curriculum through the London Challenge Pupil Entitlement
- EiC (Small EAZ) support for the Creative curriculum.
- Support through Leading Edge, Specialist and Beacon (Primary) Schools Programmes for their curriculum development work with partner schools.

4.2 Primary/Secondary Transition

The development of a primary / secondary transition policy and procedure, covering curriculum and teaching continuity, co-ordinated assessment and transfer of records.

Brent Action

- An Education department /School working group will work on the development of a policy and oversee its implementation
- Provision of comprehensive pupil performance data
- A CPD programme to support transition
- Identification of good local practice

DfES Support

- Identification of good national practice on transition
- Support through EiC (Small EAZ)

- London Challenge (through London Leadership Centre) programmes of leadership training including elements on transition
- Support through LIG for collaborative work between schools

4.3 Federation, Collaboration and Innovation

In partnership with the Westminster Diocese and the DfES, Brent has sponsored a federation between the Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College and Cardinal Hinsley School starting from 01/09/03 for three years.

Brent is fully committed to collaboration among schools and is an active partner in Excellence in Cities and Leading Edge and LIG partnerships. We look forward to the extension of Excellence in Cities to Primary Schools.

Brent Action

- Brent will continue to provide a high level of school improvement support for the Federation and is consulting on improving LEA funding for the Federation for 2004/5 and 2005/6 with review in 2005/6..
- Brent will continue to promote collaborative partnership through its support for LIG, EiC, Leading Edge, Beacon and Specialist Schools.
- Brent will further develop its partnerships with Health, LSC, Connexions, the voluntary sector and other agencies to support the Standards and Children's Services agenda.
- We will offer to share good practice beyond Brent from our collaborative and pathfinder work for innovative projects.

DfES Support

- The DfES will continue to support with funding of approximately £380k per year in 2003/4, 2004/5 and 2005/6 and specialist adviser support through Federation, schools in Special Measures and London Challenge Programmes.
- The SEU Adviser will continue to be the main point of contact in ensuring a coordinated approach DfES teams and initiatives.

4.4 Implications of Green Paper – Every Child Matters

Brent Action

- During 2004/5 Brent will need to devote planning and preparation time for the outcome of legislation on the Green Paper. The Council will

seek to create a proposal for the integration of children's services with its partners which fit with their local needs and stage of development.

- Brent will ensure that parents and children are involved in needs identification and planning. Community and voluntary organisations will be fully consulted and involved.
- We will undertake a feasibility study for primary / secondary school collaboration in the extended schools initiative.

DfES Support

- The DfES will support the Council in the planning and preparation and recognises the need for local flexibility in determining the best way forward in Brent to achieve the national outcomes. We look forward to confirmation of the resources available to enable effective implementation of the Green Paper proposals for 2004/5 and beyond, including future funding for information sharing developments and full service extended schools development.

4.5 Cultural Strategy / Regeneration

The Council in 2004 will be publishing its cultural strategy. Schools will play an important part in the strategy which will embrace creative arts, sports and leisure. Preparation will take place for the Creative Partnerships projects awarded to Brent in 2005/6. The importance of Education in regeneration will be central to planning provision.

Brent Action

- The Council will work with schools to extend cultural opportunities and seek funding from external organisations for curricular and extra-curricular activities.
- Deploy resources of the Youth Service (through Transforming Youth Work), Libraries and Adult and Community Education to support the Cultural Strategy
- Work proactively with the LSP to ensure Neighbourhood Renewal activities support the standards agenda in schools and lifelong learning

DfES Support

- Liaise with ODPM and Government Office to ensure NRF supports the Education Standards agenda
- London Challenge support to widen access to cultural facilities for Brent pupils
- Support through the National Primary Strategy for creativity in the

curriculum

- Support through Leading Edge, Beacon (Primary) and Specialist Schools for activities which promote creativity in the curriculum.

4.6 Early Years

A key priority for the Council, identified in its self-review and OfSTED inspection report, is the development of Early Years provision, both in terms of expansion of provision and improvement in the quality of education and care. The Council reaffirms its support for Council provided Early Years provision and its commitment to working in partnership with the voluntary and private sector.

Brent Action

- Action is set out in Brent's LEA Inspection Action Plan

DfES Support

- Liaison with Sure Start to ensure all potential resources are made available and to provide advice and support on their deployment
- Identification of models of good practice on Early Years Provision
- Support through Government Office to ensure NRF is appropriately utilised to support Early Years Provision

4.7 Secondary School Places

Brent faces pressures on school places in years 8 to 11 in secondary schools owing mainly to a recent increase in new arrivals in the Borough.

Brent Action

- In the short term the Council wants to work with schools to offer places above planned admissions and an expansion of bespoke projects for asylum seekers and refugees without adversely affecting the conditions of service for teachers'. In the medium to long term reassessment of the need for new places is being made.
- Prepare BSF proposal to take account of additional secondary places required.
- Prepare bids through traditional funding routes including targeted capital for any necessary capacity required in Primary Schools.
- Prepare and begin any necessary consultative procedures arising from school places proposals.

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- Liaise with other admissions authorities (including neighbouring LEAs) on school place proposals.
- Endeavour to facilitate the efficient planning and provision of secondary school places and to ensure a fair and equitable admissions policy across the Borough.

DfES Support

- The support of the DfES is needed in terms of short term negotiations with schools of increasing admissions and in the longer term on new school places.
- London Challenge to facilitate work across LEAs and other admissions authorities on school places.
- Advice and support on provision for Asylum Seekers.