

Pennyman Primary Academy

Rationale

Pennyman Primary Academy is situated in an area of high deprivation has provision for up to 440 children including 54 children with physical or medical needs. At any one time we have an average of sixty children on our vulnerable list. These are children open to external agencies and does not include the children we have concerns about on a daily basis not open to agencies.

I started work at Pennyman Primary in May 2012 as a Welfare Officer. I met with staff regularly to identify vulnerable children and discuss what support was required.

Following the school summer holiday it became apparent that the number of children referred to Social Care for incidents of neglect, DV etc had risen over the summer. There was also a rise in the number of accidents sustained by children.

It was also noticeable that some of the children returned looking unwell or appeared to have lost weight.

I met with the Head Teacher to discuss how we could alleviate some of the issues and support some of our most vulnerable children and families. We discussed our current breakfast club provision, after school clubs and the possibility of running holiday clubs throughout the year.

At that time we were advertising for two Sports Coaches to join the staff at Pennyman. A decision was made to employ them term time, plus four weeks. This enabled us to look at holiday club provision. In the first year we offered two weeks of activities in the summer which were attended by approximately 15 to 20 children each day. The clubs ran from 10:00am until 2:30pm each day at the cost of £5 per child. For some of our parents, this was affordable child care. We then offered free place to some of our vulnerable children.

I applied to TFM Cash for Kids for a grant to help us set up the summer clubs and was awarded £1200. This enabled us to give the children different experiences. The numbers of children attending holiday's clubs has risen each year. We have up to 30 children a day attending activities.

Current Provision

BREAKFAST CLUB - attended daily by approximately 100 children. The breakfast club costs 30p per day. The children can choose from a choice of cereal, toast, choice of drinks, fresh fruit. We also hold themed sessions such as French day, Spanish day. The children then get to try food from other cultures. Following breakfast the children get to join in a range of activities. The breakfast club is staffed by support staff. Grants have been accessed through Kellog's to provide equipment and resources.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS – held daily from Tuesday to Friday. A range of both physical and academic clubs are provided with up to approximately 60 children attending daily. All after school clubs are free of charge.

HOLIDAY CLUBS - activities are available during February half term, two weeks during the Easter holiday and up to three weeks during the summer holiday for children from Reception to Y6. The activities are very varied, Footy/golf, Multisports, Dance, Rock Climbing, Cinema trips, Drama and Film-making etc. We negotiate with local businesses to obtain discounts and tailor the activities to meet the needs of our children. The clubs cost £5.00 per day with sessions taking place from 10:00am till 2:30 pm. The children bring a packed lunch with them. Where we have identified vulnerable children, they are offered free places and provided with packed lunches if needed.

UNIFORM SCHEME - we have a large number of parents that donate uniform if their children have grown out of it. This is washed along with spare uniform and distributed to families where needed. We also have local groups that donate small amounts of money to provide uniforms for children.

WELFARE FUND – throughout the year we hold raffles to raise money for a welfare fund. This is used to support children with items such as shoes, uniform and PE kits.