

# Zone 3 Confederation Schools – ES Parent Awareness Event



## Organisation

Zone 3 schools, Surrey Heath Confederation of Schools:  
Carwarden House Special School / Cross Farm Infant /  
Frimley C of E Junior / Lakeside Primary / Ravenscote Junior / Sandringham Infant and  
Nursery / St Augustine's Catholic Primary / Tomlinscote School and Sixth Form

## Target Group(s)

Invited parents of  
children in zone 3  
schools

## Context

During their inaugural zone meeting the schools making up zone 3 agreed that since parents and carers have such a crucial influence on what their children experience and achieve we need to consider, holistically, our role in enabling all parents to play a full and positive part in their children's learning and development. In order to better inform our service planning as a zone we needed to start creating Confederation led opportunities to engage with parents and solicit their views, one such method was through the setting up an Extended Service Parent Awareness evening. Each school in the zone was tasked with inviting 4 parents, and up to 12 in the case of the Secondary school, to participate in an Extended Service Awareness Workshop on Thursday 26th Feb 09. Schools were clear that parents to be invited were those willing and able to act as advocates for ES within their own school thus taking the message of ES further.

## Action planned

- Venue - Local hotel selected. Wanted comfortable, neutral surroundings. Keen to demonstrate to parents and schools that they are valued and their time appreciated.
- Timings – mid week date, Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 09, selected and 7pm arrival for 7.15 start.
- Agenda – 20 minute presentation on ES Core Offer, Confederation structure and project examples led by Confederation Chair person (Jan Church) and Project Manager (Sarah Sewell).
- Materials – DCSF ES leaflet for parents, Governor tool pack for those interested, various banners around walls.
- Workshop – posed questions to attendees to stimulate thinking and discussion on the services parents would like to see delivered, this included feedback and whole room discussion i.e. what do schools in the zone currently excel at, what schools could learn from each other etc. Also made service questionnaire available on tables to use as a discussion aid.
- Evaluation – attendees encouraged to complete form.

## Outcomes and Impact

Although numbers weren't as good as hoped for, *of the 15 evaluation forms returned 14 were very positive*. Two schools had HT representation but no parents, and one school wasn't not represented. 25 people attended in total – this figure includes HTs and parents.

Many felt they now had a better understanding of the Confederation and welcomed the opportunity to be involved in shaping services. Very enthusiastic and keen to take the key messages of ES back to their schools and solicit further feedback from parents through various means (parent evenings, PTA, class reps etc). Many commented that it was good to have some time with other parents and HT to discuss ideas.

### *Better next time:*

- Some felt they would have liked some information on ES before the evening so that they had some background information first. Too much too soon?!
- May have been better if there had been more time for feedback from tables.
- The tables had been mixed so more ideas could be generated between zone schools.
- An understanding of the funding objectives.
- More understanding of the role of agencies, LA and voluntary organisations in the Confederation.
- More people there!
- Case studies had been provided to discuss.

## Next Steps

- Consider how to extend the school further for the community.
- Communicate to other parents and get feedback from them as to how the Confederation could support families, possibly through the use of a further questionnaire.
- Increased and coordinated communication to parents about courses / activities being offered.
- Spread the word about the website.