

Committee Children and Young People Committee – 9 January 2019

Background Information: Supplementary Schools

There are 82 supplementary schools in Milton Keynes attended by approximately 5000 children.

Supplementary Schools in Milton Keynes share a number of characteristics:

They offer a range of learning opportunities, including national curriculum subjects (English, maths, science and others), religious studies, mother-tongue classes, cultural studies and a range of extra activities, such as sport, music, dance and drama.

- They run throughout the week in the evenings, or at weekends;
- They are set up by local community groups;
- They are voluntary organisations, often they rely almost exclusively on volunteers.

They operate from a variety of venues: community centres, youth clubs, places of worship, mainstream schools and other places.

Working together for better outcomes for children

The Council's work with supplementary schools contributes to the implementation of the Children and Families strategic delivery plan which is intended to raise the attainment of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) pupils. The support given by the Local Authority (EMA [Ethnic Minority Attainment] Network) to supplementary schools is also to strengthen relationships between supplementary schools and mainstream schools in order to:

- Raise the achievement of BME children and young people in mainstream and supplementary settings and schools by providing advice, modelling effective teaching strategies including the provision of targeted training;
- Liaise between supplementary schools and mainstream schools to raise BME pupil achievement and inclusion through sharing practices, teachings and understanding;
- Build and maintain effective professional relationships with staff and trustees of supplementary schools in order to develop further the quality of leadership, management, teaching and learning;
- Support pupils, parents and communities in order to promote and improve understanding of faith related issues and needs;
- Ensure effective inclusion and improved achievement for all pupils in a safe environment; and
- Guide and support supplementary schools to improve their provision through working towards the bronze, silver or gold awards of the Quality Framework for Supplementary Education.

Milton Keynes, through the local authority, is encouraging all supplementary schools to work towards the Bronze, Silver and Gold levels of the Quality Framework for Supplementary Education. This is to ensure that the children and young people in Milton Keynes who receive complementary or supplementary education can do so in a safe, effective and well managed environment.