

Quality Mark Report

Quality Recognition Meeting took place on 18th June 2019, attended by following scrutineers:

Matthew Sims – Head Virtual school for looked-after children, Educational Expert
Pascale Vassie – NRCSE Executive Director, Governance Expert

Observational visits performed on 9th March and 6th April 2019 by:

Ertanch Hidayettin – NRCSE Quality Assurance Mentor

Name of Supplementary School: Membership No.:
St Charalambos Greek School **NRC1353**

Introduction

St Charalambos Greek Community School has been in operation for over 25 years, promoting the Greek language and Greek and Cypriot culture. The school operates on Saturdays at Beech Hill Community School, Dunstable Rd, Luton and supports children aged 3 to 16 up to GCSE and 'A' level standards.

The school embraces traditional costumes, dance and music, celebrations of popular events, folk plays, historically important events, poetry and an understanding of being Greek in all generations both here and in the homeland. This includes knowledge of Greek and Cypriot lifestyles and the Greek Orthodox religion. A key aim is to pass on enduring values of Greek heritage and at the same time display respect and appreciate different beliefs and cultures, especially those in Luton through participation in local events and festivals.

The school is part of the has good links with Luton Council

Key recommendations from observation and recognition meeting

Excellent teaching and learning is evidently taking place at St Charalambos and the school is responsive to community needs, a small increase in fees may be necessary and/or some additional fundraising.

Important that you have just one clear safeguarding policy that follows guidance from Luton & Bedfordshire LSCB and Luton safeguarding staff. Other child protection policies and workshop slides to be removed from your management documents to avoid confusion.

Safeguarding statement for parents and carers to be a summary of this safeguarding policy and to include current referral and contact details. Check each September before giving to all.

Please list any outstanding achievements:

Carefully planned enhancement of learning through pupil-focused extension of curriculum activities including Arabic with drama, Arabic and maths with art and calligraphy, English with poetry, the recycling project and museum visits.

Parents supporting the curriculum on visits to museum, past students engaging with the school as volunteers.

School assemblies and celebrations showing reinforcement and celebration of learning, exceptionally clear student journey.

Detail of findings overall from observation and recognition meeting

Create an effective learning environment - Advanced

The school is well-run and family oriented, a traditional Cypriot family school. There is plenty of communication between children and adults. The school rents classrooms in well-equipped local primary school. The welcome pack for pupils' families provides a clear outline of everything parents and carers need to know, term dates, roles and responsibilities, expectations and timetables. There is an active PTA working with management committee to organise activities.

Teach effectively - Advanced

All three teachers are qualified, and either teaching in mainstream here or are seconded from Cyprus and supported by the Cyprus Educational Mission (CEM). Evidence of marked work, exercise books and timetables all supported achievement of this criterion. There is quarterly appraisal and weekly planning against clear programmes of study. Teaching assistants are used to enable one-to-one support where needed. Excellent pupil/teacher ratio enabling children with a wide range of home exposure to Greek to receive appropriate and differentiated teaching.

Record progress and achievement - Advanced

Annual records linked to Greek Cypriot national curriculum targets which also correspond to EU framework for language in speaking, listening, reading and writing. End of year reports in place, annual awards ceremony recognising individual achievement. Every Greek school in England has annual inspection visit by the CEM which is sent back to Cyprus and confirms funding.

Choose the right resources - Advanced

School is not currently able to use the mainstream school's IT resources but teachers have own laptops and prepare colourful and imaginative teaching resources as well as learning materials imported from Cyprus, Greece and the USA. Cultural activities take place at the end of the school day. St Charalambos also uses resources developed with other Greek schools and the British Museum. Attend Greek Festival in Milton Keynes, Mardi Gras carnival, Christmas Fair and a special Greek Orthodox service at Christmas

Plan and develop your organisation - Advanced

School committee meeting minutes for 29/9/18 seen. The school committee is a sub-group of the church community committee with five members (parents/community) and teachers, the priest is a de facto member. The church is the registered charity. Survey of parents shows excellent support for the school, pupils asking for more fun, hands-on activities. Committee is focusing on growing the school and range of activities, developing online profile.

Select and support staff and volunteers - Advanced

Staff & Volunteer, Whistleblowing, Anti-bullying, School Safety policies and induction procedure all in place. Staff attend training and seminars in London organised by the Cypriot Embassy and government-funded teachers attend weekly meetings at the CEM in Wood Green, London.

Make sure children are safe

Good policies and training evidenced. However file contains documents and slides from different training sessions attended. Ensure that the school has only one set of safeguarding policies and procedures to avoid confusion. Summarise this in to a clear safeguarding statement for parents and carers that includes contact details for own lead safeguarding staff member as well as Luton &

Beds LADO, MASH and emergency/out-of-hours contact. Fire drill took place in November 2018, Fire protection and evacuation policy presented including evacuation plan for Beech Hill Primary.

Manage finances

Records of financial policy, income and expenditure, insurance and accounts gave strong evidence for this section. Excellent fundraising taking place. However, income has varied considerably over the last three years and it is advised to increase the reserve to ensure that school can maintain excellence, grow provision and weather external funding pressures.

