

CPD Federation Newsletter

PERFORMANCE TABLES—OUTCOMES FOR 2017-18

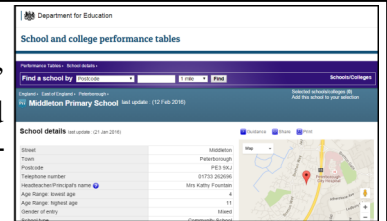
The school data for last year has finally been published. This is the ‘validated’ data for schools which means all children who should or should not be included in our results have been incorporated. As we were celebrating last summer, attainment results for each school has improved across all subjects.

Progress for pupils at Dersingham was average, whilst at Central Park it was above average. This means that overall from the starting point of the children they made the expected progress at Dersingham and more than expected progress at Central Park.

This is really good news to celebrate. However, the published data also looks at how many children got at least the expected level in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. This is called the ‘combined’ and where both schools did not do so well (hence the actions in the next section). Dersingham did slightly better than last year but still remain below the national average. Central Park matched last year’s results but still only around the national average. This year, both schools are predicting end of Key Stage 2 outcomes for combined to be above recent national averages and we are working hard to track each child (not only in Year 6) to try and make sure they do equally well in each subject area. By achieving this we can start to challenge the great results many other schools in Newham get.

You should be able to find a link to these tables through each school’s website. We have also put a simple data overview, showing the trends of achievement over the last couple of years.

We must not forget that teachers and staff have worked hard all year long to help your children achieve the best they can and the progress measures show this. We want the best for every child in the school.



TRACKING PROGRESS



Both schools have always tracked progress for all pupils. The challenge at the end of each key stage is that we do not know what expected progress will look like until all the data has officially been published in December the following year (as you can see from above).

Combined results are our concern. At Central Park, Reading really affected our combined outcomes, with a large group of pupils missing expected by 1 scale score. At Dersingham it was a bit more mixed but Mathematics in particular is a focus for the school. Both schools have now collected a second set of data (Autumn 2) and we are busy analysing this information. We will be taking some actions this year, that may be new. We will:

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1. let you know if your child is concerning us in one subject area when they are doing okay in the other two.
2. inform you if your child does not seem to be making the progress necessary and invite parents in sooner to discuss this.
3. invite these parents to workshops with strategies to help your child make the expected progress.

PARENT AND STAFF COUNCILS

Thank you for your patience waiting for us to set up the Parent and Staff Councils. We want to get these right as they should be influential in the school direction by having input into the Governing Board Meetings.

Both myself and Emma Griffin have been on a course to establish our plan of action. In January we will get the ball rolling to establish each Council, having our first meeting before the February half-term break. Each Council will help with:

1. Policy Review.
2. Guiding procedures and processes.
3. Identifying solutions to issues raised.

Whilst we will provide exact details in the new year, for the Parent Councils we are likely to want a couple of parents to nominate themselves from each year group. For the Staff Councils we want to make sure we have representation from across all staff levels and each phase in the school. The Councils will meet once every half-term so information can be fed into the following term’s Governor meetings.

Do think seriously about becoming involved.



LEARNING WALK—BEHAVIOUR FOCUS

It was great to walk around both schools earlier this term to look at learning behaviours in the classroom, implementation of the behaviour policy and behaviour generally. I was very impressed with behaviour in the classrooms; there was no significant disruption to learning, pupils were focussed and attentive. The behaviour policy was being followed but there are two sides to the policy: rewards and sanctions. I would have liked to have seen more positive praise to acknowledge the great behaviours. Being ready for learning is half the battle and both schools have this. Behaviour around the school was also generally very good. However, some pupils are not able to self-regulate themselves enough to follow rules when staff are not around e.g. they will run down a corridor, shout on the stairs, play fight in the playground. Both schools will tackle this area to make our behaviour outstanding. My next Learning Walk will look at the use of other adults.



SCHOOL DATES

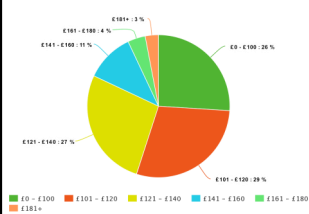
A reminder, children return to school on **Tuesday 8th January 2019**. The dates for this year and the next academic year are on each school's website. Please note these date as we expect holidays to be taken out of term time. Attendance has improved but still around the national average for absence.



NURSERY CHILDREN

After new children start in January there are not very many children on the 'waiting list' for next year, especially at Central Park. We do register children from 2 years old so do pop in to complete a registration form to ensure you don't miss out on a place. 30 hour provision for those eligible is also available.

SCHOOL BUDGETS



If you have been watching the BBC2 programme 'School' over the recent weeks it will have not escaped your notice that schools are currently under immense budgetary pressures. I mentioned in the last newsletter that both schools are financially vulnerable and having to make some choices this year to help us set balanced budgets next year. At this stage, it is looking very unlikely there will be any significant underspend. In previous years, prudent budgeting in year has meant we have been able to 'spend' on desirables before the end of the financial year, unfortunately we will not be in that position this year.

There are additional pressures being placed on schools by the Government, e.g. pension contributions rising, pay awards not fully funded, SEN funding being reduced, etc. This is coupled with rising costs in resources and services.

The Executive Team and the Governing Board will be looking at how we can set out a sustainable staffing structure for the Federation next term. We will share the basics of this with you in the summer. Options within the structure could be to have shared posts across the Federation; allocating positions that may mean combining roles and reducing the number of positions. Certainly not ideal!

This is inevitably going to impact on what we can provide in school to support children's learning—human resource, physical resource and the experiences children will have. It is likely that the most vulnerable pupils will be hit the hardest as we stretch ourselves to try and meet everyone's needs. This clearly is not right! In the coming months we will share with you some of the difficult decisions we are going to have to make. Do write to your Local MP to express your unhappiness with the cuts to schools budgets—every voice helps.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

During the final couple of weeks there have been a number of events organised to celebrate Christmas. It has been wonderful to see so many of you at these events. I am sure you have enjoyed them as much as I have. For all those celebrating this Christmas, may I wish you a very Happy Christmas, and for everyone I wish you a peaceful break over the festive period and a Happy New Year. Have a lovely holiday.

Darren Williams, Executive Headteacher



A handwritten signature in black ink.