



# Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA)

## Verification Report

<b>School name:</b>	Ash Hill Academy
<b>School address and postcode:</b>	Ash Hill Hatfield Doncaster DN7 6JH
<b>School telephone:</b>	01302 840961
<b>School website:</b>	<a href="https://www.ashhillacademy.org.uk/">https://www.ashhillacademy.org.uk/</a>
<b>Head teacher:</b>	John Higgins
<b>Head teacher's email:</b>	Higgingsj2@ashhillacademy.org.uk
<b>LPPA coordinator:</b>	Neil Cairns
<b>LPPA coordinator's email:</b>	cairnsn@ashhillacademy.org.uk
<b>Award verifier:</b>	Andrea Hamshaw
<b>Award adviser (if applicable):</b>	n/a
<b>Date of verification:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> September 2019

### Commentary on the evidence provided:

All LPPA objectives have been achieved and evidenced. The portfolio was well populated with a range of evidence that was referenced appropriately and therefore easy to navigate. Information was also provided throughout the informative school tour and initial presentation in relation to the school's LPPA journey and context of parental engagement. Positive information sharing around the subject of parental engagement was also enhanced by the stakeholder conversations throughout the day.

Collectively the information demonstrated:

- Involvement and commitment of the whole school to the LPPA framework throughout their journey to Final Verification.
- Information to show how the LPPA framework links with the School Improvement Priorities and the fact that Parental Engagement is an integral part to school development planning through the Parental Engagement Policy.
- The tour added to the information provided within the portfolio highlighting the welcoming and communicative nature of the setting. Information from the school tour was also viewed on the school website to show how parents could access via this media. The quality of display and information across the setting was consistent thus supporting the learning and development environment with relevant signage for pupils and visitors to the school.
- Evidence of engagement in supporting holistic pupil's learning and development of parental learning based on feedback working in partnership with external agencies where necessary.
- Joint enrichment opportunities as well as information sharing through home school dialogue and attendance at sessions.
- Effective, relevant induction and transition information for parents on entry and throughout their children's journey from feeder primaries, throughout Ash Hill and on to further education or employment provision.
- A range of relevant, user-friendly guidance to help parents to support their children's holistic learning and development provided across the setting via various media.
- Evidence of parent friendly policies together with relevant guidance and support.
- Effective mechanisms to promote and reward attendance, behaviour and participation with explanations as to how these are shared between home and school together with celebratory information.
- Evaluations in relation to all Objectives showing how feedback is provided to parents.

**Strengths identified during verification:**

- There is definitely a consistent commitment from all staff across the school that was echoed through the stakeholder conversations to highlight parental engagement as central to daily practice.
- Building positive relationships with parents is integral to supporting young people across the school and relevant staffing structure e.g. Learning Managers enable this to happen effectively.

- Taking part in the LPPA has enabled Ash Hill to use the development framework as a diagnostic tool that has as recognised areas of good practice/significant strength and highlighted areas for further improvement work in a structured manner.
- The tour of the school started with the welcoming reception environment that continues across the whole school with information provided about relevant displays, development and subject specific information. The new buildings to be erected on site will follow this ethos.
- Signage throughout Ash Hill both internally and externally is in place to enable visitor access to the building and to support them to navigate the site.
- Relevant information displayed across the school is also replicated on the informative Website to enable parents and visitors to gain information if they are unable to attend the school in person.
- There are numerous leaflets available to parents to enhance the information they can gain from the school to support their requirements.
- Students spoken to at the Final Verification were able to provide a significant amount of information in relation to everyday life at Ash Hill. They shared examples of communication methods in place between home and school including texts, letters, and e-mails.
- Information from the students also highlighted to families were enabled to support their learning at home and how they were given opportunities to engage in learning activities and celebrations on the school site.
- Students were of the opinion that parents valued the information they were provided with and used whichever method of communication they felt most comfortable with.
- Each student was asked to provide a word as to how they thought their parents would describe Ash Hill Academy and they replied – “good, safe and great.”
- The Advisory Board at Ash Hill offer a supportive face to parents at events and activities where they can gain information to signpost on to relevant staff or external agencies as required. Communication is good between Senior Leaders and the AAB in that all information, including that relating to parental engagement, is included within the Headteacher’s Report.
- It was apparent that when speaking to the Governors that they align themselves with the values of the school and support the vision for parental engagement across the setting.

- Parents spoken to at the Final Verification felt that they were “listened to” and any questions were answered or issues dealt with effectively and efficiently. They described staff as “approachable” and “available” support them with their questions and always get an answer or solution back to them.
- When speaking to parents they shared their individual experiences in relation to communication with Ash Hill. There was a consensus of opinion that all media used was effective. Parents were able to access information through media relevant to their needs and face to face communication was always there.
- Parents were very much of the opinion that staff supported their children in line with their needs and this was very well received.
- Where they could see their children were struggling they found the school and staff to be caring and supportive to enable effective learning to take place and this made them confident to support at home and also ask any other questions where necessary.
- Signposting on to additional learning resources e.g. through websites and external agency provision where relevant was very much appreciated.
- Parents described the school as “Caring, Outstanding and Amazing.”
- All staff met at the Final Verification offered a warm welcome and information was shared to show how they engage with parents and families in a needs led manner to enable effective support for all young people across the school.
- Information sharing with parents in relation to learning and development throughout their children’s learning journey at Ash Hill and beyond happens through various media including face to face sessions, curriculum support booklets/materials, websites and letters (amongst other systems).
- Staff expressed the opinion that parents contact the school with their queries and then they are able to either deal with the request or signpost on to where the support can be provided both internally and externally.
- Young people, parents and families are at the heart of everyday life at Ash Hill and staff ensure they are supported in a needs led manner. This may mean offering guidance outside of the normal school day and this is always appreciated.

**Impact:**

- Undertaking LPPA has allowed the school to celebrate what they offer to parents and also look at areas to develop in line with the school development planning and improvement processes.
- During the LPPA attendance at parents evening and other events has increased.



- In terms of induction and new pupils to the school the “catchment area” has grown and pupils and their families are coming from further afield.

**Areas for development:**

Ash Hill Academy will:

- Use the very comprehensively completed Objective 9 Evidence Record to parental engagement across the setting post achievement of the LPPA.
- Continue to develop the Parent Working Group to support parental engagement in general across the academy to support school priorities.
- Continue to offer a programme of activities/workshops and information sessions (in partnership with external agencies as and when required) to develop parental engagement work in general and provide learning opportunities that enable parents to understand how their children learn, develop their own learning and work together in line with needs based communication and act upon feedback. This will be enhanced along the lines of the STEM events that have already taken place.
- Develop information evening provision across the school in line with that already in operation for Y11.
- Use the LPPA framework and pro-formas as a support to assist activity development, monitoring, evaluation and feedback – We Asked – You Said – We Did! As well as case studies to share whole family support.
- Continue to enhance the early transition support available to primary schools on their sites giving parents a more confident platform for information sharing.
- Use technology as it develops to support parental engagement in general and in particular to support the gain parental feedback in relation to school policies.

**Verifier recommendation:**

That Ash Hill Academy is awarded the Leading Parent Partnership Award for a period of three years.