

Business Plan
For Maintained Nursery and
Change of Age Range
At Shankhill Church of England
Primary School



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"Shankhill is a good place to work and learn. It is clear that you enjoy school" Ofsted letter to pupils, 2006

Mrs. D. Urwin - Headteacher

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www.millenniumschoools.co.uk/pub/cumbria/shankhill/a.html



Introduction

Shankhill CE Primary School is located in Hethersgill in the Lyne Ward, within the Parish of Solport and Stapleton which is an area of rural deprivation.

Originally built in 1879 as a small schoolroom, the School was expanded during the 1960s and 1970s. The school now has three classrooms, a Headteacher's Office, a Staffroom and a kitchen. It also boasts a purpose-built sports hall with gymnastics equipment, new outdoor play equipment and an outdoor classroom for when the weather is favourable, as well as disabled access. A grassed playing field sits alongside a hard-surfaced area. There are two play areas for the children, one of which has recently had an overhead canopy installed so KS1 children can utilise the outside area more often.

We believe that there is a real need for a maintained nursery provision at Shankhill. At present, the Governing Body provides childcare under the Extended Services remit for children who have reached three years of age. The children who attend this provision are from families in our community. Between September 2008 and July 2009 we provided care for 5 children, 3 of whom are now Reception-age and are classed as being part of the School.

Before starting this facility, which is run under Early Years Foundation Stage guidelines, the Governing Body undertook a full review, including discussions with Children's Services, on the best way forward. Four options were considered, namely:

- a) Private provision on school premises, run by an independent organisation.
- b) Extended services provision run by the Governing Body / School.
- c) Voluntary management committee run service.
- d) Change of status for the School to 3-11 years.

Following full consideration of all the options the Governing Body decided that the best way forward for the School was option (d), apply for change of status.

Unfortunately, the Local Authority (LA) were unable to take our application forward due to a moratorium, followed by a review of Primary Schools. The Governing Body felt that these delays were a serious disadvantage for the local community, and we have found via our research that in some cases parents have been unable to access provision for their three year olds because the next nearest school was fully subscribed. Another problem encountered by families in our community came about because they found that they had to be in two places at once; they needed to take one child to Shankhill School and then be at another school (at least 5 miles away) at the same time to take their child to Nursery. Another parent drove 130 miles per week to access the nearest Nursery provision (i.e. 10 x 13 mile round trips); the equivalent mileage to Shankhill would have been 50 miles per week (i.e. 10 x 5 mile round trips).

The EYFS Unit at Shankhill has been in place for one year and has been a resounding success. However, the Governing Body decided that this would be an interim measure and that application for change of status would continue to be a priority.

The EYFS Unit is monitored by the EYFS Committee which reports directly to the Governing Body.

Nursery Facility

Following a successful application for change of age status, it is anticipated that the maintained nursery provision will start in September 2010 or earlier as the Local Authority indicate, and that sessions will be 3 hours duration each, 5 times per week, in line with new timescales from the LA (from September 2010, at present they total 12 ½ hours per week). At Shankhill School, these sessions will be from 9.00am to 12.00 noon, Monday to Friday, during term time.

The facility will replace the Extended Services childcare provision which is currently in place at the school. Shankhill has already fully embraced the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and all legal requirements have been followed for over a year. So, in practice, the children will see no difference to their provision. The EYFS facility for 3+ children is currently funded by the school under the Extended Services remit, therefore the School will benefit from LA funding for the children using this provision.

Children will be allowed to attend the Nursery facility in the term following their third birthday, in line with LA guidelines.

It is not anticipated that the opening times will be changed, in line with flexible provision requirements. It has been found that parents who use/wish to use the facility often have other children at the school and it makes more sense to operate at a time which will suit them, i.e. the parent only needs to make one trip per day to drop off their children. Indeed, parents using the current facility have indicated during the written consultation and verbally that this arrangement is the most suited to them.

Nursery children will continue to be incorporated fully into the school. Children will continue to join Reception children in the EYFS Unit in the morning. Full use is made of the outside play areas, including the area under cover.

Existing staffing arrangements will continue. The only difference will be the change from 12 ½ hours per week to 15 hours per week, in line with Government guidelines.

Market Research/Considerations

Market research was undertaken in our community which indicated to us that there were no alternative providers in our area, except for one childminder who provides, amongst other things, a before and after school service (she has, in fact, taken "after school" care of at least one of our nursery children last year, which is to her advantage). We understand that there is another childminder who has recently started offering her services in our area, and she provides "after school" care to one of the children who began Nursery at Shankhill in September 2009. The market research also indicated the problems and disadvantages arising from the lack of local facilities, and that families in our area would be extremely pleased to have such a facility at the School.

The nearest primary schools are Bewcastle, Longtown and Fir Ends. These schools along with other schools within the Brampton/Longtown areas were consulted in writing prior to setting up the Extended Services EYFS Unit at Shankhill. All providers were then informed by letter of our intention to begin an EYFS Unit, incorporating children from 3 years old, at the School from September 2008. No correspondence or reaction were received from any of these providers, either positive or negative, except for a response from Bewcastle School wishing Shankhill School well with its endeavours.

The Market Research undertaken provided an opportunity for respondents to make personal comments on our intentions, some of which are as follows:

"We notice that our child is not good with other people as we do not see anyone."

"I think Shankhill School is an excellent school and nursery children would achieve so much at this school."

"It will be difficult travelling to 2 different schools."

"Would be excellent for a nursery to be so local with children she would progress through school with. Brilliant idea."

"It would make it easier for me to return to work."

"I travelled 20 miles a day to and from Fir Ends Nursery, Shankhill School is only 1½ miles from home."

"Hope you do get support, it will benefit a lot of rural families."

"None of our older children settled particularly well at other nurseries, both were 'outsiders'."

"My children attended Brampton nursery which took me 30 minutes each way. This was made even worse when my older child started school. Luckily the staff at Shankhill let me drop my child at the school earlier to enable me to make the trip to Brampton."

If Shankhill were allowed to change age status and incorporate a maintained nursery provision within the School, it will continue the positive impact seen over the last year on the children who would be able to attend a local service, the families who would continue to access provision in their own locality, and on the school who could continue to provide outstanding education and pastoral care for the children within the local community.

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

<p><u>Strengths</u> The experienced and committed staff The internal and external premises which are admirably suited for EYFS provision Proactive Governors</p>	<p><u>Weaknesses</u> Long term planning</p>
<p><u>Opportunities</u> Lack of alternative early years providers New EYFS curriculum ties in well with KS1</p>	<p><u>Threats</u> The Local Authority's view that only small numbers of families are affected, and as such are insignificant</p>

Impact on School Budget

At present, the costs associated with the extended services provision are met from within the School Budget, the School's Trust Fund and from fundraising the Governors carry out if they consider it necessary, as indicated in the business plan sent in prior to the School beginning the service in September 2008.

The expenditure for the maintained nursery will be no greater than the costs for the extended services childcare which is currently provided. However, the School Budget will benefit via the nursery funding from the LA.

As can be seen from the Cash Flow/Expenditure Forecast (See Appendix 1), the costs to the School Budget are as follows, using the fiscal year:

Year 1	September 2010 – March 2011	£2,163
Year 2	April 2011 – March 2012	£3,859
Year 3	April 2012 – March 2013	£4,064
Year 4	April 2014 – March 2014	£4,250

The above figures are based upon a basic classroom assistant's salary for 15 hours per week.

At present, the LA nursery grant provides £1,420 per year/per child for 12 ½ hours per week. This amount will increase in September 2010 to take account of the additional 2 ½ hours of provision.

It can be concluded that three children would more than adequately cover the above costs.

Currently, we have 4 nursery children who will go on to Reception in September 2010. In January 2010 we will have an additional child, which should be followed by two more children in April 2010. These 3 will go on to Reception in September 2011, and will be accompanied by a further three children who will attend nursery from September 2010 – a total of six children.

Organisational Structure

At Shankhill School, nursery-age children and Reception children are together during the morning, with Reception children rejoining the mainstream school after lunch. The arrangements work extremely well. Indeed, the School Improvement Officer has judged as outstanding the curriculum entitlement and creativity for all children at the school, including the EYFS Unit. At least 75% of time is spent on child-initiated learning and continuous provision within the EYFS.

Premises

Educational provision for all children at Shankhill is enhanced by the facilities present at the school. There is a large indoor provision, including a recently-built school hall (for which the LA invested £¼ million in suitability funding), and three classrooms. The EYFS Unit has a fully-enclosed secure courtyard which has been developed to include a large canopy, a safe surface, and fixed learning play equipment, which are essential for outdoor learning. £25,000 of capital funding has been used to suitably develop these outdoor spaces.

Ofsted Implications

Ofsted will inspect the maintained nursery as part of the whole school.

Since the introduction of the EYFS Unit at Shankhill in September 2008, and the implementation of the Early Years Foundation Stage Strategy, the Governing Body has closely monitored the Unit to ensure that all legal requirements have been fully met, and will continue to do so. The EYFS Committee reports directly to the Governing Body on all aspects of this service.

Conclusion

The Early Years Foundation Stage Unit at Shankhill School has been a tremendous success. Provisional indications show that children who attended nursery at Shankhill from September 2008 before moving upwards to its Reception class will have a higher attainment on entry than any other recent intake, especially 'Personal and Social Development' and 'Communication and Language'. This should be finalised at the beginning of November 2009. It has been noted that children from other providers who then attend Shankhill's Reception take longer to settle etc, and children who have had no nursery provision at all are further behind, including poorer social skills, poor personal care skills, and sometimes poor vocabulary skills.

This success will continue with a maintained nursery and change of age status, and will bring stability to a deeply rural area.

Shankhill School is over 5 miles in every direction to any other school or pre-school provider. Maintained nursery provision will not impact on these providers, as shown by market research, but will continue to enhance the local community, providing a much-needed service in an area which is classed as deeply-deprived with regards to access of services.

The Governing Body of Shankhill School actively support a change of age status for the School. Consultations have taken place over the last few years with Samantha Dever (Strategic Manager – Early Years & Childcare), Melissa Mallin (Development Worker with Children's Services/Surestart), and Mike Tuer (School Organisation Project Team), as well as with Ofsted, the DCSF and David Maclean MP.

With the recent changes to Early Years strategies, provision of EYFS has become a reality at Shankhill School. With a change of age status, this provision will become permanent and continue to enhance the local community.

Cash Flow Forecasts – Additional Expenditure Following Change of Age Status

Cash Flow - Year One

September 2010 - March 2011

Sept-Dec 2010 73 days	Jan-Mar 2011 54 days
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Expenditure

1st staff member *	£1,103	£809
National Insurance (0% rate) - below threshold	£0	£0
Other on-costs (inc holiday costs) (estimate)	£100	£100
All Salary Costs	£1,203	£909
Administration costs	15	11
Activity and material costs	15	11

Total Expenditure for Year

£2,163

* £73.50 p/w, 3hrs p/d

(Basic classroom assistant)

Cash Flow - Year Two

April 2011 - March 2012

Apr-Jul 2011 61 days	Sep-Dec 2011 73 days	Jan-Mar 2012 54 days <i>(estimated dates)</i>
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Expenditure

1st staff member *	£1,160	£1,339	£982
National Insurance (0% rate) - below threshold	£0	£0	£0
Other on-costs (inc holiday costs) (estimate)	£100	£100	£100
All Salary Costs	£1,260	£1,439	£1,082
Administration costs	13	15	11
Activity and material costs	13	15	11

Total Expenditure for Year

£3,859

* £89.25 p/w for 3 h/d

(Basic classroom assistant)

Cash Flow - Year Three

April 2012 - March 2013

	Apr-Jul 2012 61 days	Sep-Dec 2012 73 days	Jan-Mar 2013 54 days <i>(Estimated days)</i>
Expenditure			
1st staff member *	£1,219	£1,406	£1,031
National Insurance (0% rate) - below threshold	£0	£0	£0
Other on-costs (inc holiday costs) (estimate)	£110	£110	£110
All Salary Costs	£1,329	£1,516	£1,141
Administration costs	13	15	11
Activity and material costs	13	15	11
Total Expenditure for Year			£4,064

* £93.75 p/w for 3 h/d

(Basic classroom assistant)

Cash Flow - Year Four

April 2013 - March 2014

	Apr-Jul 2013 61 days	Sep-Dec 2013 73 days	Jan-Mar 2014 54 days <i>(Estimated days)</i>
Expenditure			
1st staff member *	£1,281	£1,478	£1,084
National Insurance (0% rate) - below threshold	£0	£0	£0
Other on-costs (inc holiday costs) (estimate)	£110	£110	£110
All Salary Costs	£1,391	£1,588	£1,194
Administration costs	13	15	11
Activity and material costs	13	15	11
Total Expenditure for Year			£4,250

* £98.50 p/w for 3 h/d