

# **Determination Application-James Elliman School**

## **Rationale**

The school requested an extension of the previous determination. The purpose of this report is to support the application.

## **Findings of SACRE LA Officer**

**Date of visit: 17.5.2010**

## **Overview**

The Head gave a comprehensive outline of current provision for assembly. (See attached programme) The school currently has 724 children on roll, of which 80% are of ethnic origin. Due to numbers, assemblies are staggered and some are class based. Whole school assemblies are held on Mondays and led by the Headteacher. The content is a combination of an aspect of the SEAL programme and a celebration the pupils' achievements. The school has been an example of LA best practice in the National SEAL programme, which focuses on social and emotional aspects of learning. The school's commitment is reflected in the appointment of 4 managers to oversee the PSHE programme. The Headteacher designs lively posters which illustrate the weekly spiritual or moral focus, and act as a point of reference for classroom follow-up. Titles included "You have the right to be taken seriously"; "Let us help the children of Haiti" and "Don't be a weak link," arranged in termly themes, such as "Rights and responsibilities".

## **Observation of Assembly**

Routines are clearly established and behaviour was exemplary throughout. Pupils entered quietly with their teachers and listened carefully for the duration of the assembly. Inclusivity was apparent in the mentoring support given to a blind pupil. The theme for the assembly was "Working together" The Head delivered a lively story about the severely disabled author, Joey Deacon, which illustrated the benefits of working together to achieve against the odds. This was related to sharing strengths in school and working as a community for the greater good. Pupils were asked to take a quiet moment to reflect on good things they could contribute. There was a non-specific appeal to god to support this and all shared in the response. Pupils clearly enjoyed participating and were confident in singing about togetherness. Pupils helped the Head in presenting Postman Pat and Bob the Builder awards for the classes with highest attendance. The Star of the Week Awards for personal achievement from all year groups were applauded and pupils clearly took pride in their certificates. These ranged from knowledge of plants to taking care with handwriting. Gold stars were awarded for performance in mathematics tables. The school would be raising money for charity by holding a mufti day. They would also be welcoming the Schools' Council from a partnership school.

## **Recommendation**

That SACRE agree to the determination being extended.

Annie Keighley

Senior Adviser, Standards and Achievement

17.5.2010