

# Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS)

## Parent Newsletter

#### What is the PINS Project?

As a reminder PINS aims to

- Improve outcomes for neurodivergent children, through a more inclusive school environment
- Enable parents and schools to work together as equal partners where everyone's experience, knowledge and skills are used to create better outcomes for children in the school
- Deliver a sustainable impact including ongoing engagement between parent carers and school leadership teams

#### What have we done so far?

We would like to provide you with an update about the progress of the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) Project at your school and the 23 other primary schools in Hertfordshire.

Representatives from Herts Parent Carer Involvement (HPCI) have so far visited 21 schools to meet with parents and senior leadership teams to hear parents' views and experiences of how all children (especially those with additional needs) are supported and included in the school, and to collect ideas of how parent carers can work in partnership with the school to make sure it is even more inclusive.

Most attendees have been parents of children with SEN although all parents at the school are welcome and the number of people at the parent meetings has ranged from 1 - 15.

We have also shared the results of the parent survey in the parent meetings and with the leadership teams and we have also analysed the responses at a county level.

Thank you to all the parents that completed the survey and/or attended meetings at the school and to the members of the senior leadership teams that we met with to discuss the project. We really appreciate your support.

#### What have you told us?

The following themes have been discussed with parents and the senior leadership teams during the school visits, and we have heard lots of examples of positive inclusive practices, as well as some challenges.

Where challenges have been raised, we have shared high level feedback with the senior leadership team and discussed possible actions.



The following health topics have also been raised during parent and senior leadership team meetings and any challenges have been shared with the Integrated Care Board (which is the NHS organisation responsible for planning health services).



These lists are not exhaustive.

#### Partnership Between Schools and Parents

Across the 24 schools we have heard lots of great examples of how school staff and parents are working together to support children. These include:

Co-producing Solution focused, creative planning, developed and continually improved

developed and continually improve through partnership working

Co-designing Information contributed by both familie and school. Planning developed together.

Engaging Information contributed by both families and school. Planning led by school.

Consulting Providing information and asking families for views. School listening and making decisions.

### Involving/Informing

Providing information Providing advice. Parent governors Class parent representative meetings SEND parent representative

Developing SEN documents (plans, pupil passports etc) Working together to obtain an EHCP Developing strategies and reasonable adjustments

Parent evenings and SEN review meetings Referrals Coffee mornings / parent meetings

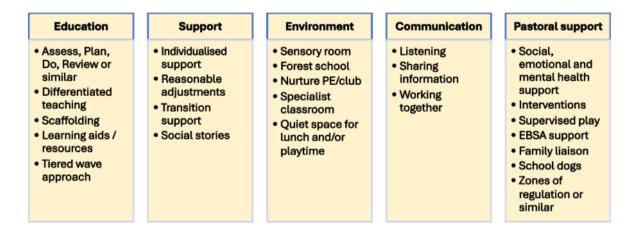
Communication about a child's behaviour Parent survey, suggestion box Trash, treasure, tweek meetings

Daily school/home books Postcards home Evidence books Food diary E-mails, meetings, newsletters, websites, social media, Arbor, Class charts Parent attendance at school events Discussing significant information at the start or end of the school day



#### **Examples of Inclusive Practice in Schools**

We have also heard lots of examples of inclusive practice, and many of these benefit the whole school community. Examples include:



#### Possible Barriers to Involvement in PINS

We have heard from parents and school staff about possible barriers to parents taking part in the project, such as timing of meetings and language barriers and we are working to ensure that all parents that want to participate can in the future.

#### What's Next?

We are working with the schools to arrange attendance at future parent meetings or school events and dates and individualized agendas will be shared in due course.

We also aim to

- Agree the purpose of future meetings with school and parent input (e.g. themed discussion, support/community etc)
- Work with parents and Senior Leadership Teams to develop opportunities for coproduction
- Link more with the healthcare element of PINS
- Evaluate the parent survey results further and take actions

If you have any feedback, comments or questions about the PINS project please email:

#### contact@hertsparentcarers.org.uk

Thank you for reading this newsletter.