

The Island Project School

Diddington Hall
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Serving the needs of children with autism and related communication disorders in Warwickshire & the West Midlands

Dear Parents and Carers

29th November 2013

Birmingham City Council Quality Assurance Visit

Some of you may be aware that Birmingham City Council carried out a Quality Assurance Visit at the Island Project on 24th October 2013. Three members of the Communication and Autism Team at Birmingham City Council spent the day at the School observing Birmingham pupils in lessons, meeting with those pupils where appropriate, and talking to staff.

We have now received their official report, and would like to share a summary of this with you:

Our visitors said that they had an interesting and thought provoking day at the Island Project, and have summarised the School's strengths as follows:

- The Island Project is situated in a beautiful setting, surrounded by grounds that allow space for children and young people to avoid and manage sensory overload
- Work areas are well organised and defined for different purposes using good use of space and supported by visual symbols
- The staff observed showed empathy and respect for the young people they were supporting
- The Island Project currently provides education for a group of pupils from Birmingham whose uneven educational and social profiles make it challenging for them to access suitable provision
- Approaches to learning are personalised to reflect the Behaviourist approach favoured at the Island Project
- The ethos of the School acknowledged families as partners in the education of the children and young people placed there

The Team also suggested that we should continue to develop our continuing programme of development for staff and develop and increase the use of IT solutions to support teaching and learning objectives. As you know, the cost of computers is always a challenge to the School as it is a charitable organisation, so any donations of equipment would be most gratefully received to help achieve this

Finally, we would just like to say that our staff were wonderful and as usual, all of our pupils were a credit to themselves and the School - we are extremely proud of them all.

If you would like a copy of the full Report, please contact the School Office who will be happy to provide this.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Jacqui Walters-Hutton
School Principal

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