

Punjabi School Annual Report

Introduction

Guru Nanak Punjabi School has had an excellent year with results. At the end of the year we celebrated our end of the academic year through Sports and Certificate Day. The school also expanded to incorporate Early Year classes. This has meant that we now have Punjabi and Sikhi education for children starting at five years (5 yrs.) to Fifteen years (15 yrs.). The headings below will provide a good frame of reference to consider the year for the school;

- Teaching
- Learning
- Building/ Equipment/ Furniture
- Funding
- Feedback and complaint system

Teaching

The school calendar is designed in such a way that the all teachers receive and undertake training for the following;

1. Curriculum
2. Differentiation
3. Behaviour management
4. Class management

There are fourteen hours of training delivered to support good and effective learning. The teachers themselves are encouraged to bring excellent class practice to share with others. teachers seek feedback about particular aspects of their teaching. I take active part by taking opportunities to make observations as well as teaching classes.

Assemblies are a regular part of the school year in which we explore themes from Sikhi and the relevance this has for us today. Teachers are encouraged to develop lesson plans to support children in understanding the objectives of the lesson. School to home communication is encouraged, although this is an area that is difficult as children don't always communicate with their parents and parents don't appear to take an interest in what is actually going on in the school by talking to the teacher. Teachers are provided with guidance on differentiation and to focus on the individual needs of the child.

Behaviour is always a big topic however, I can say with confidence that our behaviour management is good. Children do understand the consequence of their actions and know that I will be firm and fair with them if they have a complaint about the teacher or other children in the class. There are always exceptions where a child feels that the behaviour of the teacher is wrong but is unable to reflect on their own actions in contributing to the teacher's management of their behaviour.

I encourage teachers to consider a seating plan for their students as this supports good practice and a calmer classroom. Some teachers find it very helpful others prefer to do it differently. As long as it works for the benefit of children and their learning I consent to this.

Learning

Teachers are encouraged to adopt good learning strategies through lessons based on a number of activities while they are in class, a typical lesson may involve the following;

- Listening
- Reading
- Writing
- Learning through a game
- Problem solving through looking for missing words
- Creating a story given objects and clues
- Building vocabulary through working together as a group

At the end of the lesson children are encouraged to write down their favourite activity from the lesson and offer an explanation of why this was their favourite.

Children also lead assemblies and have been provided with school books that have the following;

- Five Paudis of Jap Ji Sahib
- Ardaas
- Shabads

I can with pride say that our children can recite the Ardaas by heart as they get older. They also produce posters for the Gurburabs and many of these are displayed in the Gurdawara.

Equipment

The last year has been very good for us in that we have managed to replace all the thirty year old desks that were obsolete and not fit for purpose. The new desks and chairs have been an excellent addition to our school with children feeling proud of them. The windows all have blinds to ward away the summer sun and glare. The lighting circuits and the lights have been replaced with new systems that have finally provided good light in many classrooms.

We have installed Smart boards in six class-room and are in the process of providing those teachers with lap tops to augment their teaching and enhance the experience of children for learning. For the future, we are going to explore the availability of WIFI to enable direct feed from internet for lessons.

All the plumbing has been put right and the system has been renewed where needed. The school class rooms and the toilets are regularly cleaned and stocked with paper towels. I check this personally.

Funding

The Gurdwara has been generous in its funding for teachers and children. A sense of this can be had from the new equipment, the early years class-room and the availability of the playing fields at break times. All this has been vigorously supported by the committee.

Furthermore every year we publish a year book to enhance school parent contact and a prayer book. On their entry into school the parents are asked to contribute towards the cost of this by giving Five Pounds for both books. All children who are returning for their education are only

asked to contribute towards the Year book. This is Two Pounds Fifty. The monies are collected by the teachers and kept in a fund to buy sundries such as vouchers for gifts to children, Trophies of achievement, marker pens, registers, banners, admission forms, stationery equipment, books, printers and paper. I do not personally have any of the money. It is kept by a designated teacher who provides an account at each development day of how much there is in the kitty.

Feedback

Parents are encouraged alongside the children to provide feedback. There is an opportunity for parents to have direct contact with the child's teacher on parent consultation day where they can bring any concerns, worries and praise they have to the teacher. As mentioned earlier not all parents make use of this opportunity. I am also available to talk to parents if they have particular concerns but do not feel they can go to the child's teacher.

Children are given praise in the class and this is noted in their school work. They also get certificates which are given at the end of the year on sports day for their contribution in class. Children who have excelled in their academic achievement are recognised and vouchers are given to them on sports day.

Children who have excelled in public examinations such as GCSE and A' Level are provided an opportunity to receive a reward for their excellent efforts in the Gurdwara by making a presentation that notes their achievement.

Summary

As I mentioned at the beginning as a school we have had an excellent year. There are currently approximately three hundred and fifty (350) children enrolled in school including those who attend evening classes for homework and GCSE as well as A' level. The teachers do undertake training and many have worked in the schools for many years with others also having done training with North Kent College in roles such as Learning support assistants. They attend external courses that are particularly relevant for Punjabi curriculum and disseminate this information to their colleagues in the school. They avail themselves of opportunities to develop their resources and effective by seeking peer mentoring and lesson observations.

RajVinder Singh Gill