

Children thriving as empowered partners in their education

Please find attached an independent review of the unique but high impact approach at Beddington Infant and Nursery School - demonstrating outstanding high performance alongside a deeply innovative approach to contemporary education.

Conducted by independent researcher Dr Fiona Aubrey-Smith, this report offers an in-depth look at how the school empowers young children to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, setting them on a path to lifelong learning and success.

The *Learning Naturally Method* is built on extensive research and a deep understanding of child development, ensuring that every child's individual needs and aspirations are at the heart of their learning journey.

For parents seeking a high performing school that goes beyond traditional methods, there are a number of findings which will be of interest.

Headteacher of Beddington Infants' School, Liz Kearney says "Beddington Infants' School is more than just a place of education; it is a vibrant learning community where children are happy, thriving, and successful. The *Learning Naturally Method* equips children with the foundational skills to become self-aware, competent, and confident learners, preparing them not just for school, but for life."

Key Highlights:

- **Holistic Learning Environment:** At Beddington Infants' School, every moment and every space is seen as an opportunity for learning. The school day is viewed holistically, integrating academic, social, and pastoral development throughout, rather than separating learning into rigid, timetabled segments. This includes lunchtimes and break times, which are purposefully designed for social learning and skill consolidation.
- **Strong Academic Outcomes:** Demonstrating the impact of its innovative approach, Beddington Infants' School consistently achieves well above national averages in Reading, Writing, and Maths. The school's July 2023 Ofsted report highlighted 'strong expertise and knowledge' among leaders and staff, with Personal Development, Behaviour and Attitudes, and Early Years provision all graded as 'Outstanding'.
- **More Time for Meaningful Learning:** Children at Beddington Infants' School benefit from approximately 323 extra hours of learning capacity each year - nearly 25% more than in

traditional settings. This is achieved by removing artificially separated 'playtimes' and transitions between lessons, instead weaving movement, rest, and socialisation naturally into the full learning experience.

- **Child-Centred Approach:** The school's philosophy unapologetically focuses on how adult actions affect children's experiences. Teachers carefully plan activities that encourage independence, allowing children to take responsibility for their learning and develop crucial self-management skills.
- **Engaging and Varied Activities:** Learning is not confined to a classroom chair. Children are provided with a 'menu' of activities on personal clipboards, allowing them agency to work at their own pace, both indoors and outdoors. These activities incorporate a range of sensory stimuli, varied eyesight focal lengths, and a balance of social and individual tasks, preventing eye strain, fatigue, and overstimulation.
- **Nurturing Oracy and Social Skills:** Tasks are designed to encourage purposeful discussion and vocabulary development, leading to high oracy levels across the school and lower-than-average rates of Speech and Language SEND issues. Children learn to communicate effectively and collaborate with peers and adults.
- **Collaborative Staffing Model:** Teachers and teaching assistants work as year-group teams, sharing planning, resources, and responsibility for all children. This fosters a strong sense of collegiality among staff and allows for highly targeted interventions, ensuring every child receives the support they need.

Dr Fiona Aubrey-Smith, author of the independent review says, *"In a high accountability system, schools are often cautious about deviating from traditional methods - particularly when they have a history of high performance and high attainment outcomes. However, the leadership team at Beddington Infants' School have demonstrated that when a school ethos emerges from deep research about both education and child development, it is possible to be both innovative and impactful."*

About Beddington Infant and Nursery School: Beddington Infants' School is a three-form entry infant and nursery school in outer London, serving 285 children aged 2-7 (Nursery through to Year 2). As a local authority maintained school, it operates under national policies and curricula while implementing its unique **Learning Naturally Method** to achieve outstanding results in both attainment and wellbeing.

To find out more about Beddington Infants' School, please visit:

Prospective Families

<https://www.beddingtoninfants.org.uk/about-us/join-us/school-tours/prospective-parent-tours/>

Professionals' Visits

<https://www.beddingtoninfants.org.uk/about-us/join-us/school-tours/visits-for-professionals/>