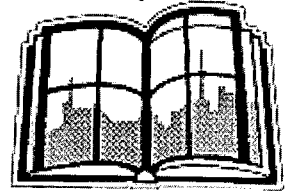
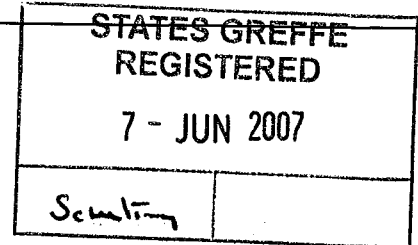


Les Landes School
Rue des Cosnets, Millais
St Ouen, Jersey JE3 2BJ



Schools Curriculum Award
1992 and 1997
Schools Curriculum Award
2000

6th June 2007



Dear Deputy Hill,

Please find below our responses regarding the -

Education and Home Affairs Scrutiny Panel

Early Years Review

A stated vision for family life is long overdue in Jersey and until that is addressed the issue of child care and pre-school education cannot be debated within a meaningful context. The following questions need to be considered - Should Jersey be encouraging or enabling those mothers who wish to stay at home to do so? Are we reviewing child care provision or are we reviewing pre-school education? Is there a conflict here?

For us there are three main concerns:

- **Equity**

In the North West of the island there are no states nursery classes – this is the only area of the island where there are no choices regarding free pre-school or nursery education. This is wrong and as one parent responded, 'Would islanders tolerate free healthcare for three quarters of the island and the rest having to go private. I think not!' Another said, 'Live in the rest of the island – chance of free nursery. Live in St Ouen – PAY UP!'

In addition to having no free nursery places we currently only have one morning only pre-school provision. Therefore, places are limited and parents have to look outside of the parish.

We also have many situations where because of limited finances parents cannot afford to send their child to a pre-school and often it is the very children who would benefit most who are denied access.

- **Quality**

We have huge respect for practitioners in the private sector but there is inequality in training and experience. Implementation of the Foundation Stage is inevitably inconsistent and in some cases impossible. This leads to an inconsistency in the quality of experience for the children.

- **Continuity**

Bearing in mind the issues raised above there is a huge lack in continuity. Here at Les Landes we have taken Reception children in from as many as fifteen different nursery or pre-school settings! The range of experience for the children is huge and the quality of that experience is vastly different. This also raises huge transition issues as we cannot have the close links with this many settings as we would like. Also some children who would benefit from early identification of learning or emotional and behavioural needs are slipping through the net and children and parents are not getting the help and support they need early enough. In this way we are building up problems for the future.

If you wish to discuss our concerns further please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Bannier
Mary Bannier, Headteacher

N. Double
Nadia Double, Foundation Phase Manager