



Parents/Carers Information Sheet: September 2009  
**Extended Schools: The Background**

**Every Child Matters**

In 2003, the Government published a Green Paper called *Every Child Matters* alongside the formal response to the report into the death of Victoria Climbié. After a thorough consultation process, the Children Act 2004 became law. This legislation is the legal underpinning for Every Child Matters, which sets out the Government's approach to the well-being of children and young people from birth to age 19.

The aim of the Every Child Matters programme is to give all children the support they need to:

- be healthy
- stay safe
- enjoy and achieve
- make a positive contribution
- achieve economic well-being.

The Every Child Matters agenda has been further developed through publication of the *Children's Plan* in December 2007. The Children's Plan is a ten-year strategy to make England the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up. It places families at the heart of Government policy, taking into account the fact that young people spend only one-fifth of their childhood at school. Because young people learn best when their families support and encourage them, and when they are taking part in positive activities outside of the school day, the Children's Plan is based around a series of ambitions which cover all areas of children's lives. The Plan aims to improve educational outcomes for children, improve children's health, reduce offending rates among young people and eradicate child poverty by 2020, thereby contributing to the achievement of the five Every Child Matters outcomes.

*The five outcomes identified by the Every Child Matters agenda are central to the work of our school. More information can be found on our school website Parents Information Page about how we ensure that the five outcomes are being supported by the work we do in school.*

**What is an extended school?**

An extended school works with the local authority and other partners to offer access to a range of services and activities which support and motivate children and young people to achieve their full potential. These services and

activities are:

- a varied menu of activities
- childcare (wrap around care) in primary schools
- community access to school facilities
- swift and easy access (referral) to targeted and specialist services
- parenting support.

Not every school will need to provide all these services and activities on its site - access can be through a cluster of local schools or through other providers. Houghton School is a member of the HuntSNet cluster (the 'St Peter's Family' Cluster) Extended schools are at the heart of Every Child Matters (ECM), raising standards and ensuring that children achieve the five outcomes identified above.

Extended Schools work with their families to offer access to the services and activities needed within their school community.



## Is Houghton Primary School an Extended School?

The short answer to this question is yes! We have worked hard over the last 3 years to ensure that we are providing the full core offer of services identified within the Extended Schools agenda.

### A varied menu of activities:

At Houghton Primary School we have always been committed to running lunchtime and after school clubs. We are currently providing 15 out-of-school-hours clubs and activities for our children. The activities vary from football to beadwork. We provide the majority of clubs ourselves in order to keep the costs as low as possible. We allow other club providers to run activities for us if it is something we are unable to provide ourselves. We currently have 179 children attending the clubs and activities we provide on site at lunchtime or after school.

### Wrap around child care:

The government require primary schools to offer access to 'wrap around' childcare between 8.00am and 6.00pm for 48 weeks a year. This means providing access to childcare before and after school during term time. At Houghton we have been able to offer this service on site for the last 7 years. Our Out-of-School-Hours Club (now known as the Phoenix Club) runs from 7.45am—8.45am and 3.15pm—6.00pm during term time. It is also open 8.00am—6.00pm during school holidays. The school took over the running of this facility in April 2009. The club is a business, offering childcare at competitive rates for families within the locality. We will be reviewing the provision over the course of this year and hope to continue with this excellent facility which provides such a good service for families in the community and wider locality.

### Swift and Easy Access to targeted and specialist services:

We work hard to build open, positive and trusting relationship with our families. This helps us to ensure that we are in a good position to support them in the processes involved in gaining quick and easy access to a range of services. We are proactive about supporting families in need and work closely with our Locality Manager within the HuntsNet cluster to coordinate advice, support and help as necessary. This can be anything from health to housing. If you need some help—come and ask (Georgina Young, Jo Taggart or Sara Barber) and we will assist you in accessing necessary advice and/or support.

## EXTENDED SERVICES AT HOUGHTON PRIMARY

**Community access to school facilities:** We are fortunate to be at the heart of a thriving village community. Our school facilities are available for hire to community groups. We currently provide facilities for the local amateur dramatics group and the Sunday School. Our PTA run a number of events during the school year for our children and their families. When the re-development of the school is completed we are delighted to be able to offer a new premises for the village pre-school.

**Parenting Support:** As a school we work hard to provide information and support for parents and carers.

We offer a range of information meetings for parents and carers. Over the last 3 years these have included: Maths Workshops, Reading Information Evening, Sun Awareness Evening, Assessment Information Evening and Drugs Education Evening. In September 2008 we appointed Jo Taggart in the role of Inclusion Worker. Many of you will have met Jo at our Meet and Greet meetings last week. Jo has worked with children and their parents/carers, providing support, advice and access to other services as when necessary. She works with children who may have been referred by a teacher, or if they come and ask for help themselves. She liaises with parents and carers if she has worked with their child. More and more parents and carers are also seeking Jo's support and advice. This year Jo will be running two evening courses for parents on site. She is running '123 Magic' this term and 'Raising Children' in the Spring term.