

Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA)

Verification Report

Academy name:	GEMS Cambridge International School, Abu Dhabi
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Award verifier:	Andy Taylor
Award adviser (if applicable):	School Led Approach
Date of verification:	27 June 2021

Commentary on the portfolio:

The portfolio evidences a range of documentation which reflects a school that strongly believes in working in a true partnership with parents. The evidence is comprehensive and well organised. All the key performance indicators are evidenced and meet the requirements of the award.

- The commitment to work with parents is evident across all phases of the school. Distributed leadership is well embedded and as a result, all staff contribute to the aims and core values of school, enabling these to become a reality.
- All stakeholders have been kept well informed, not only about the LPPA award, but all aspects of the school. Parents talked in depth about their child's education.
- Induction and transition procedures are very thorough, remove any language barriers and are fully evaluated for their intended impact. Moreover, when pupils arrive mid-way through an academic year, their induction is still comprehensive and there is regular contact with parents to ensure their child is settling well.
- The development of parental engagement strategies is an integral part of the school's improvement priorities.
- Throughout the portfolio, there is evidence of parents being fully engaged in all aspects of school life. There are many opportunities to celebrate the outcomes of the pupils, for example the Art Department organised a virtual exhibition.

- Staff value the contribution of parents and celebrate this, an example of which are certificates which are presented to parents.
- Parents are provided with helpful guidance to support their children. The school's website is a wealth of information and presented in a very clear and engaging way.
- Overtime, all stakeholders have been kept well informed about progress towards the award.

Strengths identified during verification:

Leadership and Management

- In terms of its development, the leadership and management of the Leading Parent Partnership Award has been excellent. Due to a clear, shared vision of continued improvement, leaders are determined to build on the many strengths the school now has with regard to parent partnership. Next steps have already been identified. These show clearly where the school will develop practice over the next three years.
- Parental engagement is a central principle of the school and leaders feel it is an integral part of the school's development. Leaders are constantly striving to improve.
- Leaders are very reflective practitioners and priorities for school are borne from a firm evidence base.
- Over time, leaders have ensured that parents feel their views and suggestions are valued.

Staff

- All the staff interviewed demonstrated a commitment to working in partnership with the parents. They valued how working together, outcomes for students can be improved. Staff are very enthusiastic and eager to further strengthen the provision for the students.
- The development of the LPPA Award has been implemented in a very thorough and systematic way. Staff recognise that relationships with parents have strengthened over time. There is clear evidence of even more parents engaging with the school.
- There is a well-developed network of support for both students and the wider family.
- Staff are very responsive to the needs of parents and are flexible in their approaches.

Parents

- Parents are very appreciative of the staff and feel confident in approaching the school if they have any queries or worries. They value the regular contact with staff. Moreover, they know that any issues will be addressed swiftly.
- Parents feel there is a genuine "open-door" policy. One parent stated, "...this is the first school where we truly feel we are partners".
- Communication is very strong. Parents are regularly asked to complete surveys. Feedback from the school about changes which will be made are well communicated. Parents can see, first hand, where adjustments are made.
- Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, parents feel the school has been extremely supportive. Staff have maintained regular contact with families throughout the lockdown. In addition, they valued the various family challenges which were shared.

Students

- Students are proud of their school and were very keen to talk about all aspects of school life. They clearly enjoyed learning and were confident to talk about their favourite subjects.
- They genuinely appreciated the support and guidance provided by the staff. Students felt that there is always a trusted adult to turn when they had any worries or concerns.
- Students talked about the ways in which staff and their parent work together to support them achieve of their best.

Impact:

- The LPPA award has provided a framework against which the school can benchmark its practices; key areas on which to focus upon have been identified.
- The LPPA co-ordinator has been extremely effective in her role. Tasks have been completed in a very thorough and methodical manner. The portfolio reflects great attention to detail.
- Parents are extremely grateful to a school team who are very approachable and helpful. Over time, parental involvement which has evolved into true engagement has gone from strength to strength.
- Staff are constantly reviewing their practice and are determined to continue to strengthen their partnership with parents.

Areas for development:

- To embed the work of the Parents' Group to inform and support aspects of school improvement.
- To further develop the opportunities for parents to be involved in a range of workshops.
- Continue to develop a wide range of differing feedback mechanisms to again support school improvement.

Verifier recommendation:

- GEMS Cambridge International School, Abu Dhabi to be awarded the LPPA Award for Schools for a period of three years.



Andy Taylor
Awards Verifier

Head teacher comments:



May we use your comment for website/marketing purposes? **Yes/ No** (please delete)

Managing Director comments:

On behalf of Optimus Education Congratulations on successfully completing the Leading Parent Partnership Award.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Reynolds', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steph Reynolds
Interim Head of Optimus Education