

## Appendix 2

### **Armley Primary Parents Learning and Enjoyment (APPLE) Group's progress report**

APPLE Group started meeting informally in September, 2006. A small group of parents of Armley Primary School's pupils were keen to meet socially, share ideas and knowledge as well as learn about each other's cultural backgrounds. Some of the members also have children with learning disabilities and it became apparent that they wished to raise awareness and share knowledge.

The group soon realised that they wished to be independent of the school and take responsibility for the group themselves. APPLE has actively sought support from Leeds Voluntary Sector infrastructure support organisations (Leeds Voice, VAL, RtC and Leeds Health Network). A constitution was adopted and a bank account opened. The Group charges 50p per week for refreshments. Funding is mainly via grants and Leeds Voice's Steps team have supported the group with this. They have also invited APPLE to attend key networking and information briefing sessions. Marva Pryce has visited the Group in Armley on several occasions and takes a keen interest in its development.

APPLE Group consists of a diverse population that includes multi-cultural and multi-faith individuals. The chairperson was awarded the NiACE Adult Learners Week Leeds Community Champion and a regional award last year. The group has also been nominated for a Duke of York Award for the development and work it does.

The core aims and objectives of APPLE are to provide parents / carers with opportunities to undertake learning and leisure activities as a group. The Group also meets during School vacations with their children and visit places of interest, e.g. museums, Art Galleries, in an inclusive and supportive manner.

The Group has also been fundamental in the delivery of Armley's NRF funded More Than A School project. Another project they are involved with is the Library's UK Online SID Project. Group members also undertake training to support their roles in APPLE.

The Group secured a £4, 042 grant from the Local Network Fund to set up a loaning library of educational games and resources, SEN resources and board games. We are currently exploring ways of promoting the library to other organisations.

Since joining APPLE several of the Group's members have gained the confidence to start college courses and others have found employment.

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13/01/2008