

Engaging Parents Launch 22 March 2007

Briefing Notes for Trustees and Staff

1. The main objectives of this launch are:

- To raise the profile of NAGC
- To increase awareness of “giftedness” and the issues surrounding it
- To introduce to a wider audience our ongoing work about parental engagement with schools
- To network with key stakeholders – potential funders and the press

2. Background to the launch

NAGC’s work on “parental engagement” started in late 2004 when an agreement was reached with the DfES to explore ways in which we could continue to work in partnership. It has resulted in:

- The publication of “**Neglected Voices?**” in July 2006 which audited the extent of parental engagement in England. Some findings:

- 59% of parents did not know their child was on the school G&T register
- 92% of parents said they had no meetings with the school G&T co-ordinator
- 55% of G&T co-ordinators provided IEPs but only 6% of parents had seen a copy
- Only 3% of parents had been offered additional support with homework
- Only 12% of parents had been offered information about enrichment resources out of school

- The publication of generic **Quality Standards** and accompanying toolkit in March 2007

Why parental engagement matters:

Family participation in education is *twice* as predictive of a pupil’s academic success as family socio-economic status and where engagement programmes are intensive it can be *ten times* more predictive

3. What we would do with additional funding

With Schools:

- **Produce gifted-specific Quality Standards** that will link with the already published Institutional Quality Standards
- **Produce Exemplary Support Materials** for the Toolkit.
- **Run a campaign “Is your school gifted friendly?”**

In the community

- **Set up a “Roving Branch”** to work with hard to reach parents around the country
- **Work with key groups of hard to reach parents/carers** eg foster families, BME parents
- **Develop a course to boost the confidence of parents of gifted and talented children**

4. Some facts about NAGC

- NAGC has parents and gifted children at the heart of its mission
- NAGC has 26 branches and 5 parent groups throughout England, Wales & N Ireland
- NAGC has only 9 staff working at Head Office and @150 volunteers
- NAGC offers: newsletters, members’ activities, a free national advice helpline, fact and information sheets and local projects
- NAGC helps about 10000 people each year in gifted issues, mostly parents
- NAGC runs a hugely successful annual Family Day for members and in 2007 is trialling regional Family Days

SDT

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