

**Audit Committee**  
**6<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

Note to Members of the Committee as to the financial and governance expertise given to the schools involved.

Schools' Internal Audit Reports:

- Standard agenda item on Children's Services DMT;
- Used by Children's Services Finance to feed into systems to determine schools requiring priority support;
- Audit assurance rating is used to target specific support to schools.

Many areas of concern are common to all schools and, coupled with specific intervention with schools the following areas have been highlighted:

Governance

- Model Financial Code of Practice circulated and reiteration of the compulsory nature of the Scheme;
- Reminder issued to all schools re: expected standard of full governing body and committee meetings;
- Circulation of a 'Declaration of Pecuniary Interest' every September. In addition, many governing bodies have this declaration as an agenda item at each full meeting;
- minimum standards required from a clerking service;
- proposed review of outside clerking services and provide an approved list based on quality of training and standard.

Personnel

- rolling programme of updating personnel procedures;
- termly meetings with Personnel providers;
- schools sickness management procedure reviewed and conducted training.

Resource management / Budgetary control

- changes to Schools' Finance procedures include standardised formats for schools budgets and monitoring ;
- introduction of more robust monitoring of submissions;
- Update of Schools' Finance Manual;
- Standard documentation provided for Finance Scheme for schools, Model Scheme of Delegation, Model Best Value Statement and Model Whistleblowing policy.
- LBTH Benchmarking data for all schools in Tower Hamlets based on schools consistent financial reporting year end returns.
- Financial Management Standard in Schools (FMSiS) - The DCSf introduced the Standard to improve Financial Management in Schools. This is because effective financial management and benchmarking is

essential for schools in order that they can (a) exercise proper control and stewardship over the significant amounts of public money entrusted to them and (b) allocate and deploy resources effectively to meet school priorities for development and improvement

Of the 12 schools with limited assurance, 10 have passed their FMSiS and 2 are still to be assessed

Of the 9 schools with substantial assurance, all have passed FMSiS .

School Name	Internal Audit Assurance Opinion	Scale of Service	FMSiS
Beatrice Tate School	Limited	Moderate	Passed
Bigland Green Primary School	Substantial	Moderate	Passed
Blue Gate Fields Junior School	Limited	Moderate	Passed
Bonner Primary School	Substantial	Moderate	Passed
Bygrove Primary School	Substantial	Moderate	Passed
Canon Barnett Primary School	Limited	Moderate	Passed
Christchurch Church of England Primary School	Limited	Moderate	Passed
Chisenhale Primary School	Limited	Moderate	Passed
Clara Grant School	Substantial	Moderate	Passed
Cubitt Town Junior School	Substantial	Moderate	Passed
Globe Primary School	Limited	Moderate	Passed
Guardian Angles Roman Catholic Primary School	Limited	Moderate	Wave 2
Harbinger	Limited	Moderate	Passed
Hermitage Primary School	Substantial	Moderate	Passed
Marnier Primary School	Substantial	Moderate	Passed
Mowlem Primary School	Substantial	Moderate	Passed
Smithy Street Primary School	Limited	Moderate	Passed
Stebon Primary School	Limited	Moderate	Passed
St Anne's Roman Catholic School	Limited	Moderate	Passed
Stepney Green Coates Primary	Limited	Moderate	Wave 3
The Cherry Trees School	Substantial	Moderate	Passed

Note : Lawdale junior school have recently been assessed and passed the FMSIS assessment process.