

Bloomfield Learning Centre for Children
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Mrs Imogen Wilde
Director
The British and Foreign School Society
Maybrook House
Godstone Road
Caterham
Surrey
CR3 6RE

6th October 2011

Dear Mrs Wilde

**Re: The Bloomfield Learning Centre for Children
Charity no. 1016894**

Final Progress Report: 2011

Please accept this short progress report as a final thank-you to the Trustees of The British and Foreign School Society for their support. As a direct result of your grant, the Bloomfield Learning Centre is still operating as the only significantly subsidized dyslexia teaching unit in London.

Since my last report in March 2011, we have continued to teach seventy-five children with specific learning difficulties, every week, providing them with the best chance of acquiring functional literacy that anyone, who doesn't attend a full time specialist school, can be given. The children we see can not afford independent school fees or the cost of specialist dyslexia tuition at a private clinic.

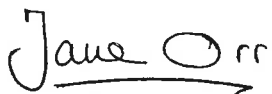
Between 1st September 2010 and 31st August 2011 we assessed one hundred and sixty-five children and taught a total of eighty-four. We also provided training in synthetic phonics for nearly two hundred classroom assistants.

Since the beginning of the new academic year we have been inundated with cries for help from poverty struck families who can not afford to pay for assessments and lessons. I have been at the Centre for twenty years and have never received so many enquiries from people who have no money. Unemployment in Southwark is between 18 and 30%; parents have no spare cash to spend on education. Sadly, without literacy skills, their children are likely to remain trapped in this cycle of poverty and under-achievement. We are offering as much help as we can without buckling under the strain of need. It is only thanks to the support of Trusts like The British and Foreign School Society that we are able to continue.

Please let me know if any of your Trustees would like to know more about dyslexia and the teaching we provide. We are always pleased to show people around.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Orr". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Jane Orr
Head teacher

Mrs Imogen Wilde
Director
The British and Foreign School Society
Maybrook House
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21st March 2011

Dear Mrs Wilde

**Re: The Bloomfield Learning Centre for Children
Charity no. 1016894**

Progress Report: 2010 to 2011

At the Bloomfield Learning Centre we assess and teach 6 to 16 year olds with specific learning difficulties, including dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD and Asperger's Syndrome. The children we work with are failing to acquire literacy because of their families' deprived financial situation, as well as their learning difficulties.

The past year has been turbulent in many ways. We have been inundated with referrals and requests for lessons, but the number of donations we received declined significantly. As a result, we have struggled to keep our doors open to the most needy children and to maintain our current level of service.

However, I am pleased to say the core of our clientele continue to be from areas of socio-economic disadvantage in London, especially Southwark, Lambeth, Islington, Camden and Greenwich. Their families and schools are unable to pay for the specialist literacy teaching they need. In order to reach these children we have to be able to offer free or significantly subsidized lessons. Without charitable donations, this would be impossible.

We currently assess three/four children every week and teach seventy-five in individual, hour long sessions. Between 1st September 2010 and 31st August 2010, we assessed one hundred and thirty one children.

We have continued our community outreach project, sending one of our teachers, Anne, into Michael Faraday School, Southwark for one day/week. As well as teaching, Anne, provides initial screening for all pupils who are struggling. Those who are significantly under-achieving are then referred to the Learning Centre for a full diagnostic assessment. Michael Faraday are keen to extend our support by ½ day's teaching every week. We hope to be able to provide this in the summer term 2011.

A further exciting project is in the planning stages at Michael Faraday School. The head teacher and Special Needs Coordinator are hoping to set up an adult literacy unit and they would like the Learning Centre to provide the teaching. A planning meeting is scheduled for the beginning of the summer term. I am optimistic that we can get this project up and running by September 2011. An increasing number of our parents are asking for help with their own literacy difficulties; we would like to be able to support them.

Meanwhile, we have pursued our aim to spread dyslexia awareness and good teaching practice in schools, through the provision of training courses for teachers and assistants. Since September 2010 we have run four half day courses on synthetic phonics, one half day numeracy course and two Sounds Write courses, on site, as well as two in school training sessions for Teaching Assistants.

The Learning Centre is gradually building up a reputation for its maths assessments and teaching. Andrew Innes, our maths specialist, is carrying out 3 assessments/ term and teaching one day /week, on a voluntary basis.

The Bloomfield Learning Centre continues to provide the only significantly subsidized, individual, specialist teaching service in London, for children with dyslexia. This is because we are partly dependent on charitable donations to cover our costs. Our mission is to provide as many free and subsidized teaching places, to those in need, as we can. Without charitable donations, this would be impossible.

It would be easy to become a private fee paying establishment catering for families who could comfortably pay for our support, but this is not what we want to do. We want to work with those children who are not

given an equal opportunity to learn, with children who will never learn to read and write fluently without individual support and with children who are dismissed as poorly behaved or “low achievers” because their learning difficulties have not been addressed.

During the past three months, we have been fortunate to receive generous donations from the Linbury Trust, United St Saviours' Charity and the Garfield Weston Foundation. These will enable us to maintain our current level of service for the year to come. However, had it not been for the donation from the British and Foreign Schools Society, in September 2010, this would have been impossible. Fundraising was so difficult during 2010 that we would have had to reduce our teaching hours during the autumn term.

We would be delighted if any of your Trustees would like to pay us a visit. Our pupils are always happy to demonstrate their improving literacy skills.

With many thanks to all of your Trustees for their much valued and “life-saving” support.

Yours sincerely

Jane Orr
Head teacher