

## **Appendix 39**

### **Springwood School – Parent Information Pack**

Parents of new starters at Springwood School are supplied with an information pack and an introduction meeting, which gives details of many aspects of school life. Below is a brief summary of what is contained in the pack.

The pack includes a handout on the primary school curriculum, with extra information on the English and Mathematics sections, a handout on homework and what to expect at each level of primary school, and handouts on child abuse prevention and bullying. The pack also contains an 'information for parents' section with general information relating to areas such as dress code, school books, health/safety, accident procedures, home/school communication, complaints procedure, code of discipline, respect and courtesy, school rules, and bullying. Finally, the pack also includes a booklet for parents of infants starting school. This booklet welcomes parents and children to the school, and it reminds parents that the aims of the school during the first year are to prepare children for learning in terms of developing their oral language skills, social skills, independence skills, physical coordination, concentration, and learning through play, rather than just expecting academic achievement. This informative booklet has sections on 'Before Your Child Starts...', 'Preparing for the Big Day', 'The Big Day', 'Packed Lunches', 'Handling the Upset Child', 'As Time Goes On...' and 'Some Important Areas for Early Learning'. The booklet encourages parents to help their children to become as independent as possible, physically, emotionally and socially before starting school. It recommends developing children's command of spoken language; reading to your child rather than pushing them to read; and casually introducing mathematical concepts (such as shape, colour, size) in everyday situations, such as shopping. It suggests that the best preparation for writing skills is the development of fine motor skills, and recommends jigsaws, Lego, threading beads, colouring, and cutting, to enhance such skills. Finally the booklet reminds parents about the importance of social skills, good manners, courtesy, encouraging the child to mix with peers, and discouraging rough behaviour.