

Parents Voice Minutes

Meeting 16th January 2014

(Combined 9am and 7pm)

ATTENDEES

9 Parents

4 Governors (3 x parent and 1 x Community)

Guest Speaker – Lesley Tobin (SEN)

AGENDA

1. Review of Minutes from previous meeting
2. Matters arising
3. SEN Overview and Q&A
4. Policy Review / feedback from parents
 - a. Educational Visit Policy
 - b. Whole School Food Policy
5. Maths Workshops
6. Ofsted Parent-view Website www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk
7. AOB

1. Minutes from the previous meeting

Agreed as a true representation of the meeting and approved.

2. Matters arising

Parent Logins for dbprimary have previously been discussed – is there any update on this.

ACTION – to be raised with the school

The question of parent logins has been raised with DB and we are awaiting a response to see if there is a cost implication.

3. SEN Overview and Q&A

LT provided an overview of what SEN is (Special Educational Needs), how things are in the process of changing. A new code of practice due to be published shortly will provide guidance and statutory information to schools about the changes. LT explained that School Action and School Action Plus are being phased out and schools will be required to follow guidance from a new SEN descriptor system which sets out the criteria for supporting children's needs and accessing higher needs funding for more complex children's needs.

The local authority decides whether a child will be eligible for a statement or Education and Healthcare plan. LT provided an explanation of how Education and Healthcare plans will help families and children, and how CAFs (Common Assessment Frameworks) can also help to support families who require support at varying levels.

One parent asked if the school provides a School Counsellor. LT responded by advising that Mrs Donaghey is our part time Family Link Worker who supports some speech and language needs and some pastoral care. The school also commissions Nicky Thomson who is a private Counsellor as and when its needed.

LT advised that all children's progress is tracked every half term and discussed at the half term pupil progress meeting. Children with IEP's (Individual Education Plans) are reviewed 4 times during the year (or as and when targets are achieved). Progress is monitored and targeted support given where necessary in the form of smaller groups (Wave 2) to children not showing expected progress.

These groups form part of class differentiation and are implemented to accelerate progress. Support in this way can be a successful strategy for helping children in their learning journey. The Inclusion Policy outlines the 'pathway' that school will take if a child or parent feels they are not making progress. If a child stays in a Wave 2 groups for two waves then a more in depth look at how school can help the child further is carried out.

One parent asked that because smaller group working is available for the higher achievers/gifted and talented children, and also for the lower achievers, then what about the children in the middle? LT reassured parents that ALL children benefit from smaller group working with the teacher at various times, for example 'Every Child a Writer'.

LT advised that we have identified 41 children with SEN in ICPS, this is 11.7% of the school population. This is below the national average of 19 %(2012). In Northamptonshire there are some 16,961 children identified as having SEN (15.6%).

Northants Parent Partnership (working closely with the LEA and forthcoming changes) are there to support parents with any concerns about SEND (Special Educational Needs Disability). They will attend meetings and provide advice.

Parents commented on how reassured they felt knowing that such a lot of work and time goes into SEN and all children's progress across the school.

4. Policy Reviews

A general observation was made about old teacher names within the policies. Governors confirmed that this would be picked up by Governors at the formal policy review.

Educational Visits Policy

With regard to the policy changes, nothing was noted as needing to be changed. One parent noted that there is a section regarding the lack of private insurance on day trips and that it is not made very clear on letters home. **QUESTION: Could the insurance situation be clarified and made clear on letters.** One parent suggested that this could be offered through the school as some other schools organise.

We are clarifying the situation with NCC and will report back.

Whole School Food Policy

With regard to policy changes, nothing was noted as needing to be updated apart from **QUESTION: Does the Cookery Club still run?**

At the moment we don't run a cookery club.

There was a lot of discussion regarding lunchtime arrangements, including a **thankyou for the introduction of Playground Pals**. Some parents commented on how children could be encouraged to eat more, eat their vegetables etc, whereas other parents discussed how a child will not go hungry and learns to take responsibility for themselves in terms of how much they eat so they are not hungry later in the school day.

It was mentioned that arrangements would most likely change in September once all of KS1 are entitled to free school meals. It was also noted that some children don't like the quality of the food and that the three week menu is repetitive. It was suggested that there should be more encouragement to use water bottles, and one suggestion was there could be a basket on each table in classrooms for the water bottles.

5. Maths workshops for parents

Parents reviewed and discussed the ideas being explored for a Maths Workshop.

A parent mentioned that some schools have published YouTube clips that have been really helpful – could we link to these or create our own? It was also suggested that the parent's forum on the website could be used to share these and other ideas. SW to finalise suggestions / questions and send to Mrs Alison.

6. Ofsted Parent View Website

A Parent Governor explained the website was a place for parents to leave their opinion of the school at all times, and that it was not only for use during Ofsted visits and encouraged parents visit: www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

7. AOB

Mobile Phone Numbers – the school have requested that parents ensure that the mobile phone numbers held by the school are accurate and up to date, especially the main contact number. In the event of an emergency all numbers on file are contacted. However for non-emergency situations such as Gold Awards, only the first number on file is used. Some parents have missed Gold Award having not received their text from school.

Tablet safety session – The school is offering to run Tablet/Mobile safety sessions for parents. The idea being that parents could come in with the child's gadgets to raise awareness of online safety and receive advice regarding parental control on the devices. Parents from both meetings were very supportive to the idea. It was also suggested that educational apps could be promoted.

Thank yous – There were two thank-yous from parents. One was for the introduction of Playground Pals and the second for the successful Language Day held recently.

Date of next meeting - to be held in March – date to be published on the Parent Voice Forum.

END.