



Parents' Forum Meeting Minutes

Friday 29th November 2019

4.00pm

In Attendance: Mrs Hutley, Mrs Wright, Dr Liang; Mrs Bouchlaghem; Mrs Davis
Apologies: Mrs Loi, Dr Umoren; Mr and Mrs Browne, Miss Pykett

1. The future of this group in its current format

It was agreed it is a useful group, though having regular attendees is more beneficial. We welcomed our new ladies to the group. With those currently on the 'interested list' we have good representation throughout the year groups. We could do with 2 more. **Action:** PH will advertise in time for the next meeting of 31st January 2020.

We pointed out the terms of reference for this group, and the difference between it and the Friends of Hollygirt for the benefit of the new members.

2. Timings of meetings

It was agreed that whilst this doesn't suit some, it is great for others as it is when many of the pupils are at football. The aspiration here is to finish in time for collection if football staff are not returning to school.

3. How to increase engagement

We discussed parental communications, recognising that each communicates best in whatever way best suits them and their devices/working and so on (this differs parent to parent). It was acknowledged that all the information is there, and accessible but we need to do more with new parents to draw attention to it. Parental apps were discussed again - we trialled this last year but it was no more successful than any other. Tailored mails to specific groups of parents was also mentioned and indeed are used sometimes, but the plethora of different methods of communicating is time consuming for the office and adding another layer might be too much. We recognised that those who engage, engage fully. Those who don't: rarely. No current action.

4. Parental attitude to technology in the classroom

Parents are aware of the need for young people to be tech savvy for their futures. Taking in mobile phones is seen as a good strategy to take away distractions during the day. For every point made there were some inherent contradictions but the following recommended **actions** ensued:

- (i) We should strategise towards a Wi-Fi network. PH will build this in to longer term strategy.
- (ii) KB has contacts with council who have IT consultant who seeks to future proof hardware. She will send on a named contact to PH.
- (iii) Could we forge a partnership with Confetti who have state of the art technology? Does anyone have a contact here?
- (iv) Parents still require training in online safety to better help their children with devices at home. PH will see if NSPCC or other could do some parental training (See point 7).
- (v) We could consider allocating more time to technology in the classroom - not necessarily via Computing lessons, but through curriculum.

5. Other curriculum strategy

This item was held for the next meeting.

6. Pupil health and well-being support

PH outlined the role of KG. It was considered we need more support in Junior School (KG has some 1:1 sessions but the drop in sessions didn't work as the children too young to appreciate how to use it). **Action (i)** PH to discuss with VW how greater support could be built in at this level. **Action (ii)** KG suggested we speak with Brenda Williams at NGHS who takes on this role and is much respected (she is a nurse). PH will follow this up. We also discussed the need for parents to understand what we teach of healthy relationships / managing relationships and whether we should do more.

7. Future parents information/training sessions

Information on on-line safety and more on how we deal with teaching about managing relationships (both of these were covered last year but would take a repeat).

8. Information for new parents before the academic year

ZL suggested whether we could do a half day or a series of half days for new starters. This is not possible prior to the start of a term (except for our youngest pupils some of whom do not start full time). We discussed the need to ensure new parents are aware of important dates for early in the new term at their new parents meeting in July and in the handbook - perhaps mailing reminders to new parents to direct them with good notice. This also came up from a senior parent who was not aware which dates were meant for him and needed more clear direction. **Action:** PH to build into new parents information in booklet, face to face and by reminder mail (this is easier for the September starters but can get lost for those entering the school at different points).

9. Labelling of uniform items

ZL sought clarification on labelling uniform. Whilst we need labels in all larger uniform items, it is up to parents whether they label smaller things - like socks. This can be eased by writing in indelible pen on garment labels. **Action** PH to amend uniform lists to add a compulsory name label is required against key garments.

10. Parent Handbook

ZL sought clarification in parents' handbook of insurance policies, including a statement of the schools' own liability insurance. **Action:** This can be amended for next year's booklet.

11. AOB

- (i) Request for 'skins' under skorts for girls. Concern that our PE kit looks dated. **Action:** PH to investigate further by consultation with PE staff, other staff and pupil forum.
- (ii) There was general approval of the new Junior School coat.
- (iii) It was commented that the 'pen licence' is an outdated strategy. VW pointed out why/when we move pupils from pencil to pen. **Action:** VW to consider with junior staff.
- (iv) School lunches – it was requested that we could have a parents' tasting session for lunches. **PH** will consider how this might work.
- (v) There was some issue with our parental communication about the flu jab for junior pupils. VW explained that we had difficulty in finding a suitable matching date with the nurse team. The concern was rather that we hadn't let parents know we would be doing it in school and this led to queries unnecessarily.

The next meeting will be held on Friday 31st January 2020, 4.00pm