



Parent Council Minutes

Date of Meeting: Friday 13th May 2022

Clerk: Liz Johnson

Attendance

| Name | Class | Present/Apologies |
|------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Jennifer Gilmore | Butterflies Woodpecker | Apologies |
| Amos Amiegbe | Ladybird | Present |
| Jade Whitehouse | Fox | Apologies |
| Shipra Srivasta | Caterpillars | Apologies |
| Sinead Whelan | Owl | Present |
| Heidi Williams | Frog | Apologies |
| Holly Rigby | Fox | Apologies |
| Natalie Muir | Squirrel | Present |
| Lisa Parkinson | Rabbit | Apologies – no longer able to attend |
| Liz Johnson | FLO | Present |
| Pat Myles | Hedgehog | Present |
| Melanie Runnett | Deer | Present |
| James Danforth | Hedgehog | Present |
| Amy Evans | Badger | Present |
| Gemma Berkul | Teacher | Present |

Issues discussed;

1. Minutes of Last Meeting – Agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Annual Reviews

- Parental contribution form to be renamed Parent view form. The email that goes out with it to explain more about its purpose.
- Letters to be offered in paper at parents request
- Each term an email to go to those with an A/R that term pointing out the key facts e.g. PV form, that you can bring someone
- Any actions agreed to be sent out via email after the review.

Staff Absence

Sally reserves the right to decide on an individual basis when it is appropriate to inform parents of staff absence, this is partly due to confidentiality for staff and partly to do with each situation being unique. She accepts there was a recent incident where parents were not informed quick enough and has addressed this individually. At Delamere all staff work across all departments and classes, this is to ensure that all staff have the skills needed to go to different classes and that children recognise all staff. Likewise all staff collect children from the buses in the morning. If parents are unsure they can email the office or LJ or SJ. SJ is very aware of the impact of staff absence on our school, we have multiple systems and support in place to support staff and encourage good attendance.

3. Main Discussion Item – How can we improve parental engagement with Learning?

LJ showed a presentation looking at what we mean by parental engagement with learning and why it is important.

We completed an Agree / Disagree exercise (7 taking part).

- **It is school's job to educate my child.** 3 disagree, 4 wavering.

Comments: you are a parent, it's both / it's not totally down to school / the learning needs support from home.

- **Parental involvement has a significant effect on pupil achievement throughout the years of schooling.** 7 agree.
- **I want to do more but don't know how or what.** 3 wavering, 2 disagree, 2 agree.

Comments: I would ask school for help if needed / due to the changing needs of my child it's not always possible due to resources. / it can depend on how my child is feeling and if he wants to do things.

- **“Parent engagement in the educational development of their children improves attainment more than any other single factor.”**

John Hattie 2010

5 wavering, 2 agree.

Comments: it depends on the children / a parent can only do so much / school fills in the gaps in my knowledge.

- **My child isn't the same at home, they don't want to sit and do reading or use schedules.** 7 wavering.

Comments: depends on the mood of my child, I can't force it / depends on the individual child.

- **A father's interest in a child's schooling is strongly linked to better educational outcomes for the child.** The group felt this question was not appropriate, that both parental role models are important, that it doesn't have to be the father but a positive male role model, it can depend on each family situation.
- **I want to come to sessions that are put on but I'm always too tired when it comes to it.** 5 disagree, 2 wavering.

Comments: it depends on the day / other commitments and priorities can arise / it depends on the importance of the session for me child e.g. annual review and parents evening seen as priority.

GB explained the work we had been doing in the community recently with PODB mats to encourage communication and confidence. The group had various suggestions to continue this work, see recommendations.

How Can we Improve Parental Engagement with Learning?

We conducted a Speed Discussion exercise looking at 2 areas.

- a) WHOLE SCHOOL TRAINING EG E SAFETY / DEPARTMENT TRAINING EG COMMUNICATION / TARGETED SESSIONS EG PHONICS

Positives – learn more / come into school, socialise, meet others /

Possible deterrents - “don't want to be Miss Goody Two Shoes” / time to have to come in / feel some are repeated and its tick box session

Possible solutions – email reminders, not parent mail, perhaps on teachers' weekly email, perhaps targeted to those most relevant to / send out power points after session / Teams option for convenience / ask parents

what is relevant for them perhaps via social media or at the end of
parents evening

b) PARENTMAIL / EMAILS

Positives – PM is good, emails get lost

Possible solutions – notice board (remind parents its there, perhaps move it to the gate?) / options of how to be contacted / use teaches weekly email to reinforce / phone calls / text

4. Your Views

Nothing raised.

Decisions and recommendations made:

Communication in the community / #Pods in Places

- For school to make some generic POD matts for cafes, parks, beach, zoo, farm etc for parents to be able to have and take with them on visits.
- Packs of PODs could be made and parents asked for a donation for a pack.
- Parents could deliver them to their local area (JD to Irlam, MR to Heron foods, Tesco, hideaway, AE to Partington library and childrens centre and CAFT)
- Take them to local schools or siblings schools, may help shy children but also help them become recognised.

Encouraging Parental Engaging

LJ to discuss ideas with SJ and put ideas in place.

Date of next meeting: Friday 8th July 2022