

Minutes of Longlands Primary School Parent Forum

10th February 2020 at 6pm-6.45pm

Distribution

To all parents and carers via school website

Forum

Janice Owen (JO) introduced the meeting and repeated the rules of conduct and status of the Forum as set out on the School website.

Agenda items

Previous Minutes

The previous Minutes from the Parent Forum held on 8th July 2019 were agreed without any amendment.

Matters arising

School Clubs

This school year has so far seen the introduction of some additional clubs- football, cooking, art, table tennis to name a few. Tammy Allen (TA) indicated that an EYFS choir was being planned for the Summer Term.

Communications

Parent comments at the Forum meeting indicated that there was a general feeling that school communications with parents/carers had improved. The introduction of the new parent app Pupil Asset, despite teething problems, was now being used to good effect. More parents/carers were able to access it and a majority of parents/carers were now receiving messages reminders and texts. Notwithstanding this improvement, it was commented that communications within individual year groups could be improved still where appropriate, for example for year specific homework. JO noted that all efforts would continue to maintain and improve communications.

Appraisal- An attendee commented that communications had not improved and that from their position as an EYFS parent they felt that there were various events held during the school year that were not only well communicated but that were also jargonised which made it difficult for new parents/carers to access. JO acknowledged the need to achieve a healthy balance between efficient communications without overburdening parents/carers with information and that there were always lessons to be learned in achieving this balance. Other forum members suggested social media as a point of reference for parents/carers (eg School page on Facebook), use of year specific WhatsApp groups, synching the school calendar from the website with own calendar or referring to the school calendar on line which lists upcoming events on good notice and also includes major PA

events. JO further noted that charity events held throughout the school year had been streamlined so that the school could (and generally would) commit to the same ones each year.

Daily Mile

TA noted that this had been a positive introduction to the school day but that implementation was currently inconsistent. Although teaching staff were encouraged to fit it into their daily schedule, it is not currently a compulsory part of the school day. This is to be reviewed with a view to potentially formalise it on a daily basis next year.

JO commented that the daily mile is something that she feels strongly about and noted the considerable benefits that it has on the physical health and mental well-being of pupils.

School Trips

An attendee commented that trips for their child's year group had improved.

EYES

An attendee noted that the teaching staff had settled the EYFS cohort well in to the school year, and supported the children for a seamless induction in to school life. It was further noted how good the communications between EYFS teaching staff and parents/carers had been to date.

School Community

An attendee commented on the happy teaching environment created at the school. TA concurred that the happiness of the students is something that all staff are interested in and invest in and that there had been a particular focus on the well-being of the children with various initiatives, such as "What Went Well" on Fridays, and using inspirational songs in assemblies. JO noted that the Kindness Week had been a huge success.

School toilets

Noted that the cleanliness needs improving. To be actioned.

Anti-Bullying/ Behaviour policy

An attendee raised a question on the school's anti-bullying policy. It was noted that this policy is on the school website together with all school policies and that any parent/carer with a bullying concern should speak to the class teacher/phase leader as appropriate in the first instance.

Homework

An attendee commented that they had concerns that homework needs to meet the needs of individual children. It was advised that in the first instance parents/ carers should raise individual concerns with the class teacher.

Contact Books

An attendee enquired whether reading records could be used as a way of communicating with parents/carers, especially for working parents/carers who were not always able to speak to the class teacher at drop off or pick up. JO advised that reading records were not currently used as a point for general contact and whilst theoretically a sound idea, logistically this may prove unworkable on a daily basis. JO further advised that this suggestion would need to be fed back to phase leaders to see what could be done.

Implementation of Relationships Education and Sex Education 2020

TA advised that it would be a legal requirement to implement this policy in school from 2020. TA noted that broadly speaking, the sentiment of the requirement had always been a part of teaching at the school so that in essence the new requirement would merely mean formalising this teaching. TA further noted that the focus would be on the tolerance of positive relationships from a young age.

Draft policy was circulated to the Forum for comment and accuracy. TA asked for any concerns to be raised once the draft had been considered as the policy would not be implemented until September 2020. Some nominal drafting amendments noted.

Minutes

An attendee asked if Minutes from previous Forum Meetings could be circulated ahead of the next meeting. TA advised that all Minutes were available on the school website.

Forum closed

Attendees were thanked for attending the meeting. Next meeting to be scheduled for the Summer Term.

