



Parents Forum Minutes

Date: Thursday 11th November 2021

Present: Fay Munslow (Chair and AHT), Jacky Long (SEND/CO) Suzanne Beston (Head), Rebecca Edwards (Parent Champion), Ann Nunney (Parent Champion), Kelly Aubrey (Parent) + 1

Context: Meeting held face to face in the KS2 Hall

Agenda

- The role of the Parent Forum
- The role of the Parent Champion
- School procedures and policies – SEND and Behaviour
- Parent views and opinions of SEND and Behaviour

Minutes

The role of the Parent Forum:

- Key messages shared by FM: Our very first Parent Forum Meeting took place on 24th February 2020 and since then, momentum has slowed due to COVID. We now want to drive forward the voice of parents to ensure you are active stakeholders within the day-to-day running and improvement of the school. We value your opinions and really value your input. We are open to constructive feedback and will always consider opinions shared in any decision-making.
- Agendas and dates for future meetings shared by FM: 26th January 2022 (Curriculum) and 11th May 2022 (Homework).

The role of the Parent Champion

- Key messages shared by FM: Parent champions will be actively involved in the working of the school throughout the year, helping us to plan and attend key events throughout the school year. Parent champions will be the voice for the wider parent community. Parent Champions have been fundamental in getting the new Family Hub up and running and their support has been greatly valued.

SEND and Behaviour – opening a dialogue

- Jacky Long explained that there were a range of questions around the room – parents to circulate and share thoughts and opinions. These questions and responses were as follows:

Do you know who the SEND/Behaviour lead is in school?

- Jacky Long
- Yes – Mrs Long
- I think it is Mrs Long

Are you aware how children with SEND/Behaviour needs are supported in school?

- Yes, either through an IEP or EHCP depending on the level of need.
- I am new to the school, but I am aware of general SEND principles and have experience of children with SEND needs.

- IEPs and possible EHCPs. Not always aware of what support is given and when (Thrive/Jimbo Fun etc).
- I would say lots of input from everyone. Communication is good.

Have you seen the policies on the website?

- Yes
- Yes but haven't looked recently – they took some finding previously.
- Not for a while. I did discuss with a member of staff about the behaviour policy regarding terminology/language used – this was reviewed.

Do you feel the information regarding SEND/Behaviour is accessible to all?

- Yes, definitely.
- I know it is on the website, I also know information professionally. I also spoke with a member of staff with regards to developing some policies a while ago.
- Difficult if you are not sure where to go or do not have confidence.
- Yes I am. Some policies etc will be on the website, but have we considered accessibility for parents with needs themselves? Illiterate parents? Parents with SEND themselves such as dyslexia?
- Yes if you know how or who to ask but no if you don't know who to speak to.

Do you know how to get in touch if you have concerns?

- I would not have a problem approaching directly via the office or through Dojo. I feel access is good and teachers are always around.
- Class Dojo, Weduc or speak to the teacher.
- Yes, communication between us and the school is pretty good but there have been some instances of us either not being told of an incident, not given enough info about it or being told too late.
- Yes from my viewpoint, there are various methods of communication and I sometimes, as a parent, feel overwhelmed. At times I have had positive experiences and other times I think this is an area for improvement. I understand it is difficult due to my working hours.

What would you like us to improve?

- Regular term meetings to see how each child has progressed, discuss targets for next term and what/if any issues.
- Better communication with SEND parents – we don't always know what's going on.
- Like the idea of the PTA, however may be an idea to have an audited bulletin board on the relevant part of the website for parents who can't be here? Or a Facebook group?
- Better communication in terms of concerns and incidents that occur in the classroom. I appreciate that the teachers' time is valuable and often parents have some insight in understanding their individual needs.
- Possible support group for SEND parents as part of the hub use? Allow parents to feel connected.

SEND and Behaviour – Let's share

- Key messages shared through discussion:
 - Communication can be overwhelming with the range of platforms the school has to make contact with parents. With so many posts being duplicated on Class Dojo and Weduc, parents can end up with numerous notifications and per child if they have more than one child at the school. At times, parents can miss important information. Parents would like to have one main channel of

communication and it would also be helpful to know the significance of messages shared – could a traffic light system be set up – red flag if important, amber for dates/meetings etc and green for info only? May help parents (especially those that work or have little time to look at notifications, an indication to what needs to be prioritised).

- Is there another way that key information can be shared? Notice boards by the main gates where passing parents can see what it happening? This would be useful but also would need manpower to ensure it is up to date.
- JL shared key info about SEND drop ins – any parent with SEND queries and questions can pop in and have a chat about how we can help and support on the following dates: Wed 24th November; Wednesday 8th November. New dates for Spring term coming soon.
- FM talked about the new Family Hub put in place to support parents and carers. This is held in the Nest building every other Wednesday and is supported by many external services such as the school nurse. There will be parenting courses in relation to behaviour in the new year – please share this information with other parents and encourage them to get involved and attend.
- JL talked through a range of strategies and resources used to support children with SEND in school: Widget, Clicker 8, SYM writer, Dyslexia Gold, TRUGS, Phonic books, Online tracking system, Bespoke Speech and Language, Specialist teaching in small groups.
- FM shared key information regarding Thrive: Thrive is a systematic approach based on brain science (neuroscience) which is used to identify any emotional development need that can affect our young people. During Thrive sessions, children use art and craft as a form of communication, letting their imaginations run free. We support our pupils through many obstacles such as bereavement, peer pressure, low self-esteem or other difficulties. The benefits of Thrive can be seen throughout school in our pupils: their behaviour, attitudes and willingness to learn.

Actions:

- Minutes to be shared on school website and other online platforms
- Parents to share the discussions had during the meeting with others and feed back to school any relevant comments made by others
- Encourage other parents to attend the meetings in 2022

Next Meeting: 26th January 2022; Agenda: Curriculum