

## Parents' Council

### Minutes of Meeting held Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018

**Attendees:** Mrs N Edwards  
Dawn Bellis  
MayMay Sung  
Lara Seymour  
Dee Aldons  
Carol Turner  
Sally Clargo

**Apologies:** Laura Draper  
Toni Meadows  
Sarah Harris

#### **1.0 Welcome and apologies were made for today's meeting.**

#### **2.0 Previous Minutes**

No issues with previous minutes, however updates as per the following:

##### Care Fund – VOLUNTEER STILL NEEDED

Mrs Edwards has revamped the Care Fund Booklet bringing it up to date and outlining its purpose. A volunteer is still needed ideally once a term or twice a year to collate the information of the number of families who have contributed. Dawn suggested it being published collectively perhaps as a percentage of each year group as a way of encouraging others to contribute whatever they can.

The Diocese has donated towards the cost of refurbishing the artificial grass section of the KS1 playground over the summer along with money from the Care Fund. Without the fund in place, any maintenance expenses come out of the Schools budget.

Y6 Isle of Wight Trip – MayMay reported back that in relation to a possible change of venue for the Y6 residential trip, parents expressed they would not want a PGL or similar style trip. Parents are still happy to support the Isle of Wight but also open to suggestions on variation. Mrs Edwards said that other residential trips were also being considered for KS2, with the thought of making a trip the week after SATs as it will also then be the week before half term. Also included was the potential of sleepovers in school or trips to the new HOAC site which will be located near Denham Quarry.

IT - In relation to the using of YouTube in school and the IT firewalls, Mrs Edwards clarified that YouTube is used as a teaching aid within classes and that the firewall blocks content where necessary.

#### **3.0 Parent Questionnaire**

A Parent Questionnaire has been drafted to the office and is ready to be sent out. Paper copies to be sent home with each child and a raffle prize draw will be made from those families who complete and return their questionnaires.

The class with the most returned will also win the option of a non-uniform day. These will also have the option of remaining anonymous should families wish to do so.

#### **4.0 Parents' Council 2018-2019**

Dawn asked the Year Representatives present if they would be happy to stand next academic year on Council, moving along to their child's year group retrospectively. All were in agreement. There will be a need for Reps in Early Years plus Y1 as these positions are currently unoccupied. Each year group can have up to 2 people as their Parents' Council Rep; currently year 5 are the only ones who do so.

Anybody who may be interested in finding out more about Parents' Council with a view to standing please write down your details and leave in the Parents' Council Post Box within the School Office marked for the attention of Mrs Bellis. (You will be welcome to join us at our last meeting of this academic year to see what we are about)

It was agreed that Parents' Council would have Representation at the new intake meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

#### **5.0 School Uniform**

A high number of parents have expressed their frustration and disappointment at the changing of the girls uniform from navy skirts/pinafores/trousers to grey. Navy appears favourable amongst the parents with the smartness it carries and the fact blue is recognised within the Borough as being the colour of St. Andrews. It also connects us at the school with the Patron Saint and also with St Andrews Church. Question was raised over whether this decision went through the Governors or not, or if it needed to do so.

Mrs Edwards acknowledged this, but also said she is seeing a general decrease in the level and standard of uniform within school which includes the following:

wearing of grey dresses amongst the girls instead of blue, boys wearing black trousers instead of grey, children still continuing to wear trainers instead of shoes and non logoed jumpers. Uniformity of St Andrews could be accomplished if the girls wore grey skirts/trousers to tie in with the boys wearing grey trousers/shorts. Having had the recent class photos, it was apparent that 1 whole class can look completely different especially as there is still a choice of 2 shirt colours also.

Overall, the consensus was that navy is smarter in appearance however grey would bring uniformity and simple clarification upon the Uniform Policy which we all agreed needs drastically updating.

Mrs Edwards emphasised the need to monitor the school uniform to which there were absolutely no objections to the enforcing of and tightening up on.

Clarification and updating of the Uniform Policy to be made between now and September.

#### **6.0 Coach Transportation**

The issue of coach costs was raised after the recent HOAC visits by KS2 children. It was pointed out that the necessary levels of safeguarding had not been taken into account previously, however the time frame at which will be offered to parents to pay for trips does need to be addressed.

Mrs Edwards said she was very appreciative of the funds raised in Early Years to assist with the recent costs of the children's' trip to Odds Farm once the shortfall in safeguarding had been discovered and that the rest of the funding was provided out of the school budget.

We discussed the possibility of bringing costs for the trips forwards to allow parents to make instalments/have longer to pay, or even staggering the HOAC visits for the KS2 year groups to spread costs for siblings.

Rewording of the letters/dojo sent home are to be reconsidered requesting payment or contributions.

## **7.0 The Pantry**

We are still getting mixed responses to the new caterers. A lot of them seem to be negative including food is dry, too much butter in the sandwiches, running out of bread, cucumber and sweetcorn at lunchtimes.

Sally said as a server of the school lunches they seem to be an improvement in appearance in her opinion.

Dawn is happy to draft a letter to The Pantry (copying in Mrs Edwards) expressing any concerns or wishes on behalf of parents should they wish her to do so as all parental feedback should go to them directly and not the school.

## **8.0 Any Other Business**

Dawn passed onto Sally positive feedback from the last Quiz night with people expressing their enjoyment of the evening and whether they may be held a little more frequent. Sally said another one is in the pipeline.

## **7.0 Next Meeting**

Scheduled for Monday 9 July at 2pm