

ASTON CLINTON SCHOOL
Parent Forum Meeting

Date: 22nd November 2019 – 2.00 pm

Attendees

Carol Macdonald, Acting Headteacher
Carole Green – Chair of Governors
Hazel Pitt – RCS
Stephanie Young - RSR
Sarah Pinkstone/Jenifer Rhodus – 1PH
Jude Bissert – 1BB
Corinne Bonnett- 2JS
Emma Bryne – 3VF
Dawn Roberts – 3GH
Sarah Marsh - 4SB
Clare Edmonds– 4VF
Arpana Valji – 5GW
Marie Lloyd – 6MW
Anna O’Leary – 6HP

Apologies:

Kelly Hickson – 2HH
Kirsty Davis – 5CB had sent apologies and had stepped down as class rep due to her work commitments.

Welcome

Mrs Green welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that since the last meeting, Mrs Pitt had become a Parent Governor. Reps suggested that might raise a conflict of interest and it was recommended that a new Rep was selected for RCS.

The Minutes from the last meeting on 27 September 2019 were agreed and had been published on the School website.

Actions and issues raised at previous meeting:

1. Morning Reception drop off – Reception Reps gave positive feedback regarding the changes in start and end of day routines. When children came into class the activities available were good. They asked that the reason for a change was included in any communications to parents in future e.g. safeguarding reason for change in end of day routine. Reps were asked to provide further feedback on transition arrangements at the next meeting
2. Staff photos on website – staff had discussed the issue and were happy for photos to go in office reception area but not on school website. Children will be asked to draw pictures of the staff for the website. Governors’ photos would also be displayed in school reception area.
3. Twitter account – now have the details to update this and school news items will be added.

Reception Reps

Updates

- Parking at start and end of day. Mrs Macdonald said that she had contacted the police who had advised that neither the school nor parents should get involved and speak to people badly parked. Instead they should report the matter to the police. Everyone was concerned regarding parking at the road junctions making it

<p>extremely dangerous for anyone crossing the road. A number of suggestions were made and examples of arrangements other schools had in place were shared. Mrs Macdonald would follow up a number of these items including having a lollipop person.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Marking of first piece from previous teacher.</u> This was not marked as it was a best piece in their previous class and acted as a benchmark for the child and the teacher to track progress. This would be looked at as part of the review of the marking and feedback policy. • <u>Review of marking and feedback policy.</u> This policy was being reviewed under the Quality of Education work being done • <u>Open hour/book look feedback.</u> This event was well received and parents shared how proud the child had been to show their work. One issue was that there was a very little room for parents to sit with their child as so many parents had attended. Mrs Macdonald said that more opportunities to share children's work were being planned so there was an opportunity each half term for either a book look, parent consultation with the teacher or a School report. Space to do this would be reviewed. • Were year 6 book shredded? No they were kept for OFSTED purposes but the purple books did go home at the end of year. • Could parents access their child's work via Tapestry? This year's reception parents could access and see the child work. Mrs Macdonald would check to see if last year's reception parents could access Tapestry now. (Tapestry system is only used in Reception; there was not an equivalent for other year groups) • Some children were upset because their parents it could not attend the Open Hour. Mrs McDonald said that teachers should have taken photos of work which the child is proud of and printed that and sent it home the parents if a parent had not attend. She will remind teachers to send the photos home. • Having events on different days of the week was suggested which might help parents who work part time being able to attend. A different time of day was also suggested however parents liked the fact they could take the children home at the end of the Open hour. Mrs Macdonald explained why staff were not present as it enabled the child to talk openly and honestly about their work with their parents. An open evening in the summer term would not be held as that created a lot of work for staff and it was felt that staff time would be better spent on running more workshops on specific topics for parents. It was acknowledged that it was very difficult for working parents to attend sessions during the school day. • Action: Reps to consult parents for ideas how to address this issue. • Was this change for Ofsted or parents? It was for both parties to show the progress the children and the school are making and that we are working in partnership. One Rep said they had never known a school to invite parents in so frequently; it was nice to have the option but a parent did feel guilty if they could not come. Another Rep suggested that the school might be trying to do too much and putting additional pressure on staff. Mrs Macdonald explained that the school was on a journey and she wanted to include everyone on that. • Action: Reps to seek feedback how much involvement parents wanted and number of opportunities to come in school. • <u>New French scheme</u> is purchased and it should be seen in teachers' curriculum newsletters • <u>Spelling and phonics homework</u> – the approach was to master skills and learn spelling rules and not learn spellings by rote. Year 4 Reps advised that there was 50/50 split positive and negative feedback from parents. The teacher had said 	<p>Mrs Macdonald</p>
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<p>whatever way worked for the child to go with it. Mrs Macdonald said that the children did need to be able to apply spelling conventions.</p> <p><u>Safeguarding</u> Mrs McDonald reported that she had received an anonymous letter regarding safeguarding before and after school. She had taken legal advice and it was clearly shown on the School website that the school was in loco parentis from 8:35 a.m. The School was not responsible for any children arriving on the school premises earlier. The school gates could be kept shut until 8.35 a.m. however it was felt that would create a bigger safety issue with children waiting on the pavements and exposed to the dangerous parking seen in Twitchell Lane. Members of the senior leadership team did go out by the gates and playground from 8.30 a.m. if possible (not possible on Thursday morning due to full staff briefing).</p> <p>Staff have raised an issue regarding after school hand over arrangements where parents waited by the office for their children and staff could not see the parents. End of school day arrangements had been amended as follows:</p> <p>Reception: 3.10 pm collect from outside external classroom door Infants: 3.15 p.m. prompt Juniors: 3.15 p.m. Delays coming out were due to the time it took some children to get ready. Junior children had been spoken to and told to go to the school reception if the parent was not there. There was a senior leader outside if possible.</p> <p>Some Reps felt that it was good for junior children to take some personal responsibility, as it was good preparation for when they started at secondary school. Some children did walk to and from school on their own. It was suggested that a pass was issued to these children so staff and others knew that parents had given permission for this. It was also suggested that the gate by the junior playground and car park was locked so children could not leave school that way at the end of the day.</p>	<p>Reps</p>
<p><u>Main focus:</u></p> <p>Behaviour Policy Mrs Macdonald thanked Reps for their feedback on this policy. The general consensus at the meeting was that in the new approach to behaviour management was a positive change. Mrs Macdonald would include the feedback in policy and that would be presented to governors for approval.</p> <p>Homework Macdonald had sent 2 examples on of a homework policy and a homework example of a learning grid for Reps to have a look at before the meeting. There was no statutory guidance for homework it was up to the school to decide their policy for homework. Feedback was that the learning logs were generally not working. It was a lot of work for the child to do but sometimes it worked well and potentially suited girls more than boys. One Rep said that she had heard the learning grid worked well at another school. It was agreed that this would be an agenda item for next meeting.</p> <p>Reps were asked to seek feedback on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much time was appropriate to homework question? 	<p>Actioned by:</p> <p>Mrs Macdonald</p> <p>Agenda</p> <p>Reps</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What was boys' feedback regarding homework? <p>The aim would be to formulate a homework policy together seeking parents, staff and pupils input before a policy went to governors for approval.</p>	
<p>Focus: year group feedback</p>	
<p>Rec - there were some general communication issues which will be addressed at future meetings.</p>	
<p>Mrs Green thanked everybody for their time and input at the meeting.</p> <p>Next meeting: 31 January 2020, 2.00 pm</p> <p>Main focus agenda item - Homework</p>	