



'In unity we learn and play in the loving hands of God'

**Parent Council Minutes
4th October 2016**

Present:

	Name	Child's Year	Membership Category	Membership Commenced
√	Julie Sweet	R	Parent	September 16
√	Emma Knight	R	Parent	September 16
√	Nic Webster	1	Parent	November 15
X	Kate Anderson	1	Parent	May 15
√	Jo Tillett	2	Parent	September 16
√	Julia Dancy	2	Parent	September 16
√	Rachel Thirlwall	3	Parent	May 15
√	Lisa Williams	3	Parent	September 16
√	Kate Catherall	4	Parent	May 15
√	Caroline Nuttall	4	Parent	September 16
√	Lynne Dickens	5	Parent	September 16
√	Vanessa Quirk-Green	5	Parent	May 15
√	Roz Kepke Smith	6	Vice-Chair	May 15
√	Emma Jordan-Stout	6	Chair	May 16
√	Fiona Todd		Headteacher	
√	Nic Badger		Head of School	

	Action
1) No apologies were received.	
2) Minutes of the last minute were accepted as a true record.	
3) The Council placed on record its thanks to all those members who have now left, for all their work and valuable contributions during their time on the Council. New members were welcomed, and Mrs Jordan-Stout advised we currently have no further vacancies.	
4) Actions from last meeting:	
a) Parking. Mrs Todd advised that whilst we have been advised by the Council that a 20mph zone will be introduced outside school, one of our neighbours	NB

<p>has objected to the plans. However, this is now out of our hands, and will be dealt with by a Council representative. Parking by parents seems to be deteriorating again, and a reminder to park safely and outside of permitted areas needs re-sending to all parents, in the Newsletter. Repeat offenders will have their number plates given to our local Community Support Officer in an attempt to improve safety outside school for all of our children. It was asked that the diagram indicating acceptable parking areas be made available to place on all class FaceBook pages.</p>	EJ-S
<p>b) In an attempt to improve safety outside of school, Mrs Nuttall said that some parents, her included, are now cycling to school. Would it be possible to have safe bike storage installed at school, because this might encourage other cyclists to bike to school. Mrs Kepke-Smith agreed to secure a quote for the storage of at least 12 cycles.</p>	RK-S
<p>c) The results of the Residential Questionnaire, sent to all parents, were reported. Whilst there were many differing opinions, the general consensus was that parents are in support of residential visits for their children (89% voted in favour). Mrs Todd reported that more trips, events and residential visits are planned in conjunction with the St Oswald's children – widening all the childrens outlook and providing us with better pricing per child. Mrs Quirk-Green asked if we could have more notice and realistic payment plans for school trips, particularly residential trips. Mrs Todd confirmed school are doing as much as they can to provide as much notice as possible.</p>	
<p>d) Most parents have now returned the Parent Charters. They have all been signed, and no objections have been received.</p>	
<p>e) School Uniform Update: Over 60 parents have completed the online uniform survey, which is a great response. We would still like more opinions, however, so a prompt will be sent from school to ask more parents to complete the survey. Mrs Todd had brought to the meeting some uniform samples from a new supplier, who is highly recommended by many other schools. All the uniform is machine washable (including Blazers). Prices are approximately: £30 Blazer; £5 tie; £15 kilt; £10 cardigan. Once a new uniform has been agreed, it will be gradually phased in to avoid placing a financial burden on families. 52% of parents said Quality was the most important aspect they look for in the school uniform. Parents expressed concern about paying for expensive Blazers, then them getting damaged at playtimes, the possibility of only introducing Blazers for KS2 was discussed. It is planned to put together an image of the proposed new uniform, and send this out to parents in conjunction with the repeat request for questionnaires to be completed.</p>	FT
<p>f) Academy Update. Mrs Todd confirmed the Academy conversion is going ahead, and work is progressing in the expected timescales.</p>	
<p>5. Governor Update. No Governor was present to give an update.</p>	
<p>6. Head Update. Mrs Todd advised that the result of our SIAMS Inspection was that we have been rated 'at the top end' of Outstanding. She is thrilled with the result, believing that in the best interests of our children, this is a more important inspection than Ofsted, because it demonstrates the whole ethos of the school, and confirms the excellent standards of Christian behaviour exhibited by all our children.</p>	NB
<p>7. Maths Club. Was requested for KS1 children so that parents know the best way to support their children when completing homework.</p>	FT/NB

<p>9. Any Other Business.</p>	
<p>i) Bus Procedure. This was queried because mistakes are still occasionally being made. FT and NB confirmed they would investigate.</p>	FT/NB
<p>ii) After School Clubs. Parents have requested better notice for clubs being run by staff, after school. Sometimes outside companies advertise their clubs first, and parents have committed to one, without knowing everything that will be on offer. School will do all they can to ensure clubs are advertised as early as possible.</p>	
<p>iii) Gifted and Talented. Parents have asked if we have a Gifted & Talented provision. Mrs Todd confirmed that we do not currently have anything formal, but that the whole ethos of the school is the 'whole child' approach, so anything that would place a child in a Gifted & Talented group, is picked up anyway. However, she would look into this.</p>	FT
<p>iv) Young Voices. Mrs Quirk-Green asked if we were doing Young Voices next year. Mrs Badger confirmed we are, and we would be included all of KS2. VQ-G queried the amount of practice time this would take, and the expense for all parents. NB confirmed that it was not compulsory for all children to attend, parents could choose whether or not to send their child. As usual, transport would be provided, but parents would have to buy their own tickets to attend, and make their own way to and from Manchester. VQ-G asked what would happen with those children who chose not to go.</p>	
<p>v) London trip. FT confirmed that from now on this would be a one day annual trip for Y6 only, and not a residential. And that as well as visiting Haberdashers, the children would get the opportunity to do some sightseeing. Transport would be by train, details to follow.</p>	
<p>vi) Star Day. Parent have asked if school will be repeating Star Day, because it received so much positive feedback from parents and children. NB confirmed it will be taking place again, on 13th July 2017. Parents wondered where the information went from last time, NB confirmed the sheets they fill in get put in the childrens files.</p>	
<p>vii) Buddy System. Parents have asked why there was no visit to Earlybirds by the Y5 buddies this year, when this has happened before and worked so well. NB confirmed that plans will be better next year, when Earlybirds will be actually located inside school.</p>	
<p>viii) New Starter Paperwork. Reception parents have said they would like more communication please! More details on when, where, how. For parents bringing their first child to school, it can all be a bit bewildering! Mrs Knight offered to go through the paperwork with Mrs Crotty, and highlight the parts that they feel could be improved upon.</p>	EK
<p>ix) Holiday dates. Different websites are showing different holiday dates for October half term. Also, on our own website, it appears we have two different dates for the half term. NB to ensure all brought into line.</p>	NB
<p>x) 100% attendance. Can we change this incentive for a certificate? Such as arriving on time each day? For those children with certain medical conditions, 100% attendance is almost impossible to achieve, and they will therefore never get one of these certificates. It was also confirmed that raffle tickets are no longer handed out at lunchtimes.</p>	FT/NB
<p>xi) PTA. It has become obvious that our PTA need some help and support, and the Parent Council agreed to support the PTA. NB agreed to send out an email to all parents, asking for help.</p>	NB

<p>xii) Online Payments System. Some parents are struggling with this new system and not finding it very user friendly. NB agreed to find out if there were some 'crib notes' or a YouTube video that would help.</p> <p>xiii) Email Responses. NW asked if the Admin staff could acknowledge emails from parents advising of late arrival/early pick up/different person picking up, etc, just so the parent knows the email has been received and actioned. NB confirmed the office staff would be asked to do this, and also said it would be very helpful if parents could advise of any changes 24 hours in advance, to ensure nothing gets missed.</p> <p>xiv) GOOD NEWS!! A. Aspirations Day was absolutely brilliant , and school confirmed they are planning another. B. Communication to parents is much improved. C. Meet the Teachers was fantastic this year, much more informative than in previous years.</p> <p>xv) You said, we did. ELJ-S advised she was introducing a 'You said, we did' page on the parent council section of the school website. This will in brief show the matters that have been raised at the Council, and the outcome of those matters.</p> <p>10. The date of the next meeting was set at 29th November, 3.15 in school, and the meeting closed.</p>	<p>NB</p> <p>NB</p> <p>ELJ-S</p>
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