

Parents' Voice meeting – Term 1 – 12 October 2018

13 parents attended.

Some parents raised the issue of timing of these meetings and suggested there could be an afternoon or evening meeting as well as a morning one. It was also noted that because there are many parent activities running at the moment this makes it very difficult to arrange meetings that do not clash with anything.

This was a constructive and solution focused meeting with some great suggestions – thank you!

Welcome	People introduced themselves and explained which classes their children were in.
Parent Survey	<p>We started with feedback from the Parent Survey. This was carried out at our 'Get to Know You' meetings, where teachers met parents and learnt more about children, their families, background and culture.</p> <p>56 responses were received and a full summary has been added to the website on the Parents' Voice page.</p> <p>From the survey we pulled out themes for further discussion and split into two groups to work on some questions and actions.</p>
Communication	<p>Parents came up with several very useful points.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes there is miscommunication when children have the same name or surname. <p>Action: Ruth to add this point to the staff bulletin. All school staff to be vigilant about this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emails and texts need to have clear wording as some parents don't always get messages clearly. Ruth also asked for feedback from the community about text and email communications. She sends many of the text messages and it would be very useful to know how these could be clearer <p>Action: Ruth to monitor text and email communications for clarity. School to be vigilant about this too. All parents to feedback if communication is not clear.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents said they need more specific and direct feedback about their children's progress; for example do children need to work on spelling, handwriting, or reading? Parents asked that teachers are direct with them about this. <p>Action: This message will be conveyed to teachers ahead of Learning Review meetings in November.</p>
Positive behaviour at Hannah More	<p>There was a creative discussion around behaviour and the following main points were raised.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can there be a meeting with lunchtime staff and leaders, to explain the behaviour strategy and consequences for children misbehaving? Parents would like to be clear about consequences and about when and how privileges are removed (e.g. children not being allowed to play football if there are behaviour incidences the day before). One parent explained that whilst the ideas 'look good on paper', parents are not convinced that the behaviour policy is applied consistently. If all parents have faith in the behaviour policy being consistent and fair then there may be fewer instances of parents telling their children to retaliate. Parents feel that they are told that incidences have been 'dealt with' but they don't know how, and they are not always confident that there is justice. This is sometimes also because parents are not told who the wrongdoer is. <p>Action: Ruth to request this meeting</p>

- Bern Leckie offered to work with school to develop an accessible version of the school's approach to behaviour, possibly working with the school council. This could take the form of an animated film with voiceovers in different community languages. What a fantastic idea! It was noted that the full behaviour policy is 20 pages long and is not very accessible to many parents.

Action: Ruth to pass on this proposal this to school leaders, governors and the school council and liaise with Bern about taking this forward.

- Can older children -who have the respect of their peers - or children who have improved their behaviour - take on a role in mediating or being a playground helper? Could this help other children to avoid conflict or avoid getting involved in others' disputes? (A point was raised that these children must be chosen by their peers, not by staff.)
- Can we research the idea of external expert advice from outside school to improve behaviour, e.g. teaching children skills to deal with anger and teaching mediation or conflict resolution skills?

Action: Ruth to pass on these comments to SLT and governors.

- Could a meeting be arranged between key children whose behaviour at lunchtime needs to improve, together with their parents and the lunchtime team? This would be to ensure parents and staff are working together and that parents are getting clear and direct messages about behaviour which is unacceptable.

Action: Ruth to pass this to the lunchtime leader

The next Parents' Voice meeting will be in term 2 when action points will be reviewed. This is currently scheduled for Wednesday 12th December.

Any intervening meetings to be recorded and noted as well.

Thank you all.