



## Parent Council - First Meeting

Monday 4th October 2021

### Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Contact information - please complete the form
3. Aims of the parent council
4. Membership and vacancies
5. Communication and feedback from parents
6. Items from the EHT
7. Items from the heads of school
8. AOB

### Minutes:

1. Introductions were made around the table.
2. Contact information sheet completed by members.
3. EH explained the ASPIRE structure of SLT, Middle Leaders and teachers. Ethos was explained regarding unique schools, but 'one federation' regarding our offer. Ideas and Aims of the council were explained - Parent Voice, in order to gather feedback, is important to the Executive Head and Heads of School when decisions are made across the federation. The Senior Leadership is passionate about 'getting it right' for the majority of our pupils, which span an array of contexts, where all options are discussed in length before a decision is made. Gathering parent/carer feedback is an important part of the process.

EH explained that an Agenda would be set a week before the meeting - which will take place once a term - and sent out to the council to then have the opportunity to add any agenda items.

4. Vacancies for the council are more or less filled - one vacancy for PH still available.

5/6. Homework:

EH explained that the last policy was vague and had not been reviewed, so a lot of research had gone into the decision making of writing a new homework policy. Research such as; Good Practice, Examples from other schools, and 'what worked well'. SLT understood that there would be an array of wishes from parents, as there are a lot of factors to each parent/carers context; no space for children to complete homework, no time with out of school activities/clubs, parents/carers working more than one job Vs those parents/carers who wish for their child to complete daily/weekly tasks.

EH then asked for thoughts from the council:

Badgers - the new menu system was great. From a parent viewpoint, the menu helped with a parents schedule to work around. The research based activities are also good as her child has engaged with these, as well as developing research skills.

Squirrels - the tasks are quite intensive with regard to parent/carers input. However the categories are nice.

Ulcombe - the menu opens it up to parents leaving it until the last minute. Weekly set-up was better.

Additional comments - homework is then not marked for weeks and the task then doesn't have any meaning.

Birch - we have a system where the children 'show and tell', receive feedback and have a photograph with their homework. The menu allows for this to be across the term.

LS explained the different number in classes across the four schools, and teacher workload. LS explained that with the menu option, teachers are able to stagger the feedback along with their daily marking of literacy, maths and afternoon subjects.

EH outlined the expectation of feedback - written in the policy - where feedback would be visible in the homework books when given out at the start of the next term.

EH/EM outlined the halfway check by Hos and the supportive process to support children to complete tasks and still receive the benefit of 'out of class' learning. It was also discussed how the process supports the transition to secondary and the expectation of when they reach Year 7.

EH explained the Praise, Support and Sanction process of the policy to ensure it was fair across the board.

Question: Can we offer Google Classroom for homework - offering the same menu?  
Some children prefer to be on a computer and engage with the task more this way.  
Some children feel they are 'playing' when learning and engage more.

EM explained that not all households had the technology, wifi or funds to do it this way.  
EH explained that we will take that into consideration but we needed to offer one way  
and be consistent.

EH explained the expectation of spelling, maths and times tables as weekly foundation  
tasks. Badgers have this set on GC - EH to look into this.

TT Rockstar and Education City were also discussed and it was explained that with all  
apps, programmes and resources it came down to cost.

EH/EM said we could send out a list of 'free trials', free apps and links to support parents  
with reading, spelling and times tables at home.

Additional Questions:

a) After school clubs/Nativity - EH/LS explained about costs for licenses, health and  
safety, first aid and staffing to both of the above points raised are always barriers  
to offering this.

b) EH asked how parents/carers found Wrap-around care:

L&B - 'love it' - 'it's my life line, please do not take it away'

c) Kingswood - can the weekly newsletter be tweaked to have the events at the  
beginning. EH suggested we all link our newsletters across the federation so be  
consistent.

Parents asked if the noticeboard could be used... this is a great idea.

d) Mrs Harris asked if her details could be given out to other Oak parents for  
communication - yes, this can be done.

e) Year R parents explained about paint not being water based and not coming out  
of clothes. EM said we will investigate with KCS.

7. LS highlighted the vacancies that Kingswood currently has.

EH thanked everyone and asked parents if they would like their details shared as a group -  
they agreed they would.

EH closed the meeting.