



West Leigh Junior School Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting held 10th May 2018

The following classes were represented:

3Q, 3M, 3L, 4V, 4S, 4B, 5N, 5C, 5J, 6W, 6D

Apologies were received from Amy Thompson (5P) and Maria Pepermans (4A).

Maths Drop-In

A query had been raised as to whether enough spaces had been made available, as well as whether any later appointments could be made available.

Maths drop-ins are only able to run during staff directed time, which is one hour a week (this is in addition to the four parents' evenings each year). Therefore we can only offer a limited number of slots on the allocated evening, but appointments are available for all parents – they may just need to be arranged for a separate dates/times. Plenty of notice is given for working parents but due to the nature of the drop-ins they cannot be made any later.

Sports Teams/Clubs – Access for All

We have been working hard to arrange many Portico participation events for those children not selected for teams – there have been football festivals and there is an athletics festival scheduled this term. Some teams will have to be the 'best' in terms of talent/skill, but we are addressing this by increasing the number of participation events throughout the year.

We have regular conversations with staff to ensure that children are being selected fairly and monitor this closely. Children also take part in an annual club participation survey to ensure that those with lower participation are given priority access to clubs in the following school year.

Streaming

There will be a streaming meeting on 14th June at 7pm to talk through the process and help parents give the best support and advice to their children. This is part of the educational ethos of our school and all of our data supports us when saying that this works for our children.

We minimise the process as best as we can with both parents and children, and it should not be a surprise to parents when their children are placed in a certain stream.

It was suggested that it may be helpful for parents to be told at the streaming meeting which teachers will be teaching in each stream – the school agreed to discuss this, however Mr Lear made his concerns clear that this information would then be passed onto the children. The children have to be at the heart of every decision that we make.

PSHE lessons put into place in the last two years about celebration of all skills and the importance of not boasting have had a very positive impact on pupils, as confirmed by members of our parent council.

Year 3/4 Rugby Tournament Cancellation

We are very much hoping that the tournament will be rescheduled, although unfortunately it is out of our hands.

Prefect Training

Some children have reported that they feel concerned about being in class – in particular that when on wet play duty, children don't listen to them and adults are not supporting them.

Mr Dunn does carry out prefect training with the new prefects each term, and midday assistants do 'patrol' the corridors during lunchtime, and are always available to deal with any problems. However, Mr Lear will look into this to see if further training or support is needed.

Art Club

An art club was requested after school. There used to be an outside provider who came in to deliver this but unfortunately they could not continue.

Mrs London will look into alternatives, including speaking to staff, finding out about local providers and speaking to local colleges.

Update: One of our new LSAs is a very talented artist and will be starting a lunchtime art club in September.

Dress Up Days

A parent requested that we do not hold dress up days as these are costly.

Unfortunately it is difficult to please everyone – there have been complaints before when not doing dress up days!

A suggestion was made that parents can donate unwanted costumes that could be sold cheaply through the 'pre-loved uniform' shop, with any proceeds being donated to the school. Mr Lear will speak to the ladies in the office about this.

Book Looks

A later book look will be arranged for this term – these should be termly and the school apologises that there has not been a late book look for a while. Unfortunately these can only be held on Tuesdays, as it is the only day that staff will not need their classrooms after school due to staff meetings.

Some parents have reported that they are unable to view their child's maths book during book looks. Although unable to distribute maths books, maths books should be available. Staff will be reminded that this should be the case.

Parking Sign

A 'no excuse for bad parking' sign has been seen outside St. Michael's School and a request was made for a similar sign to go on the fence outside the school.

It was agreed that this was a good idea – the school have previously tried to order these but will try again!

Update: The office staff are placing an order for the new signs.

GDPR

Mr Lear explained that the school will now be subject to data protection regulations from May 25th. This has to be shared with parents and carers, and the information will be placed on the school website.

The councillors were provided with a copy of the document for parents. A point was raised that there is inconsistency in the way that test results are shared with the children – some teachers give children the results and others don't. Mr Lear clarified that test results can be requested by parents but should not be shared with the children – he will remind staff of this.

Uniform

Uniform has now been changed on the website to a non-gender specific description of our uniform. Girls may wear tailored black shorts but the suggestion of playsuits was not approved as these are not smart and do not fit with the rest of our uniform.

House Teams

Following much discussion in school, it has been decided that the house team representatives/names will be changed to be more reflective of society. The four explorers are very dated and all male, meaning that the children have no real connection with them, and more importantly, there is no female role model provided.

There were mixed opinions within the council but the overall feel was positive. The four colours will remain to ensure that children maintain the family connection/tradition as they enter the school. Children will be the driving force behind this change and will be selecting the new house team names as part of a large project in September.

Lockdown Procedure

A new lockdown procedure has been created for the school. This was shared with the parent council and all agreed that a note in the newsletter to direct parents to its location on the website would be sufficient. A key point for parents to note is that they should not phone the school in the event of a lockdown so as to keep the phone lines free – updates will be given via School Ping.

Hayley Keyes (6D representative) is a police officer and suggested that a 'dummy run' in a light-hearted, non-threatening way would be a good idea, for both staff and pupils. This is something that will be further discussed.

Reports

The school will be reviewing annual reports and would like to seek feedback from parents on their format. Once reports have been received this term, the school would be grateful if parent councillors could collect feedback from parents – are they happy with them as they are? Do they need revamping? Nothing more can be added as they already a lengthy, detailed document – but is there any way they can be improved? This will be discussed at the next meeting in the autumn term.

Parent View

Another request was made by the school to direct parents to complete Parent View – the link for this is on the homepage of the school website.

There is minimal feedback on there at present and this does not all reflect the positive feedback that we regularly receive from parents.

However, if a parent does have a problem/issue, please encourage them to come in and speak to Mr Lear or Mrs Woolf – simply writing on Parent View won't get the problem solved.

Beer Festival

As part of the school's charitable work this year, Southend Beer Festival will be held on the premises free of charge during the summer holidays (10th-12th August).

There will be the opportunity to sell refreshments to visitors and raise a lot of money for the school, however volunteers will be needed!

Several members of the parent council kindly offered to help, and Mrs Woolf would be grateful if the message could be passed on to parents so that the event is a success and hopefully will raise plenty of much needed funds!

Next Term

This was the last meeting of 2017-18 academic year. A huge thank you to all councillors for their commitment this year, and especially to the Year 6 councillors who have been with the council since the beginning.

Mrs London will be in touch with councillors at the beginning of next term to confirm that they are happy to continue in role and with the date of our first meeting.