

Minutes of Working Together Group- 31.3.16

Attendance:

Clare Rushworth (Deputy Head/SENDCo)
Liz Woods (TA, son in year 3, daughter in reception)
Maria Peck (MDA, school cleaner, daughter in year 6)
Emma Heath (sons in year 5 and year 2)
Anne Jenkins (vice- chair of governors, sons in year 6 and year 2)
Yvonne Williams (daughter in year 2)
Catherine Armstrong (son in reception)
Rachel Thomas-Prasad (son in year 3 and daughter in year 1)
Kelly Emmerson (sons in year 5, 3 and 1)

Apologies from Lucy Hulmes (MDA, daughter in year 4, son in reception)

CR explained her reasoning for the group:

It is to create an opportunity for parents to be heard, to have their say, to improve communications between school and the rest of the community. It is to make our school even better than it is with every one working together, collaboratively. If we are proactive, constructively discussing ways together, it will make things better for the children, parents and staff.

Other information that was shared:

- 1) Not an opportunity to make a specific personal complaint as this needs to be discussed with the relevant person.
- 2) Trying to get a mix of parents from every year group. Presently we will have this working party but as time goes on we would like to open the meetings up for any parent to attend.
- 3) Minutes will be taken and they will be put onto the school website. At the end of the year a report of all the actions and successes will be written.

CR explained that this year, teachers, teaching assistants and governors have been asked to do an activity: write down what they believe are the **strengths** and **areas for development** of the school.

This is the first activity that the Working Together Group completed. They came up with the following:

Strengths

Children are happy.

The atmosphere of the school is good.

Extra support for those children who struggle

Most staff are friendly, caring and approachable

The school is a creative one- evidence of a variety of creative activities visible. The school isn't about just reading, writing etc

The school communicates in a variety of ways- paper, text, emails, newsletter with a diary for the week at the end.

School canteen provides 3 options for lunch.

Nice environment/- classrooms, corridors, art with an artist

Morning drop off- doors open at 8.45 with gradual arrival, greeted by members of staff at the door.

Times when parents are able to come into school and be part of the lessons

Online payments

Link with pre-school

School building is clean

Forest Schools

Sports Day

Areas for development

Some staff are less approachable.

Not all messages get passed on- in reading record, at door.

Experience of children at lunch time on junior playground- some MDAs are lovely, some don't listen and the children end up going to their class teacher.

Lunchtime portions could be bigger for the older children.

Grammar, spelling mistakes on school letters

Playground appears dreary- more equipment and more benches are needed.

School has no animals.

Distance of toilets from the reception classroom

Parents of children to start in reception don't know the layout of the school. A tour would be useful.

When come into classrooms as part of the lessons, initially feel awkward.

Next steps

- 1) Make school email address available to all parents in the next newsletter and encourage this to be used for messages.
- 2) EYFS meeting for new parents to include a tour of the school.
- 3) Lunchtime improvements- experience and playground equipment.

It was agreed that everyone who was present was happy to be the voice of the parents. Please see any of the above parents if you would like anything raised at the next meeting.

Next meeting

No date was agreed but it was agreed to be held towards the end of the next half term.