

Minutes of Working Together Group- 26.5.16

Attendance:

Clare Rushworth (Deputy Head/SENDCo)
Liz Woods (TA, son in year 3, daughter in reception)
Lucy Hulmes (MDA, daughter in year 4, son in reception)
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)
Stef Duncan (daughters in year 5 and reception)
Paula Thompson (daughter in year 6, son in year 4)

Apologies from Kelly Emmerson, Maria Peck

CR handed out the minutes from the last meeting for everyone to read, if they had not seen it on the website. She was able to explain what work had been done towards the next steps.

Next steps

- 1) Make school email address available to all parents in the next newsletter and encourage this to be used for messages- **This was put on a school newsletter.**
- 2) EYFS meeting for new parents to include a tour of the school-**The parents' meeting for the new starters is on Tuesday 7th June and a tour of the school will be incorporated into this.**
- 3) Lunchtime improvements- experience- **A display has been put up so that the children know which class is going in first for lunch in KS1 and KS2. The week's menu is also displayed. A new system has been put into place with each MDA having 3 gold coins every day. These are to be given to children as a reward. The children then put their coin into a box and each week they are counted up. At a school council meeting they agreed that when the total reaches 300, the whole school could have a reward of playing games (rounders, cricket, tennis etc) for an afternoon.** Lunchtime improvements- playground equipment- **Mr Erne put in a bid for a grant and he won £10,000 for the school. The school council have been shopping and bought integrated goal posts and basketball nets, tepees, picnic benches and big boards explaining how to play some traditional playground games..**

Recently the parents have filled out a parental questionnaire. Mr Erne and staff wanted to know what the parent's feelings were about the questions that scored highly on the 'neither/disagree/strongly disagree' boxes.

I believe there are good channels of communication between school and home: 'Neither' 12%, 'Disagree'- 6%, 'Strongly disagree'- 4%. CR voiced her shock as at the last Working Together meeting this came out as a strength- open door policy, letters, emails, texts, twitter, website. Parents suggested that it was possibly due to:

- 1)Some staff were more approachable than others. Parents can tell by: their willingness to help, how well they were listened to, their body language, whether they left the top playground quickly at the end of the day, happy to be seen again another time.
- 2)Late texts when clubs get cancelled.
- 3)Personal emails not being responded to at all or quickly enough.
- 4)Some parents still like to get paper copies of letters as don't read their emails every day. Some classes do both, some classes don't.
- 5)Class website page might not be up to date when paper copy of homework goes out.
- 6) Parents do like the section on the newsletter that says 'letters that have been sent out'.

I believe the school understands and works to meet the individual needs of my child and is helping him/her to meet his/her potential: 'Neither' 11%, 'Disagree'- 6%, 'Strongly disagree'- 0%. Through discussion, it was clear that the school haven't made it known to parents of all the things that it does to meet the needs of all the children.

I am satisfied with the amount of homework my child/children receive: 'Neither' 18%, 'Disagree'- 5%, 'Strongly disagree'- 2%- The majority of the parents stated that they didn't like the homework being set on Education City, mainly due to screen time. CR explained that with the massive changes to the new National Curriculum plus Assessment, it was to reduce workload for the teachers as the new curriculum meant a huge change to the amount of planning and preparation teachers had to do. The termly homework linked to the topic was liked.CR stated that homework is always a divisive point.

I believe the school achieves high educational standards: 'Neither' 22%, 'Disagree'- 3%, 'Strongly disagree'- 0%. There was very little time to discuss this as CR wanted to discuss the next 2 points.

I receive good information on the progress, attainment and welfare of my child/children in school: 'Neither' 21%, 'Disagree'- 6%, 'Strongly disagree'- 2%. I receive good information about the welfare of my child/children in school: 'Neither' 25%, 'Disagree'- 4%, 'Strongly disagree'- 3%. This led onto discussing:

The school deals with bullying effectively: 'Neither' 20%, 'Disagree'- 10%, 'Strongly disagree'- 0%. There has been talk on the playground of a couple of incidents not being re-acted to by teachers. CR stated that as a school we are proud that we're very proactive against bullying. The buddy system between Reception

children and year 6 that was in place didn't happen this year and the parents were disappointed that this hadn't happened. They felt it was a real success in previous years.

I believe my views are listened to and the school handles concerns from parents well: 'Neither' 14%, 'Disagree'- 8%, 'Strongly disagree'- 4%. This was touched on when discussing the first point.

Actions

- 1) Explanation of all that the school does to meet the needs of all of the children.
- 2) Parent questionnaire to find out their views on Education City.
- 3) Reminders of what can be found on the website, put onto the schools newsletter periodically.

Next meeting

To be held towards the end of the next half term. Focus: finish off discussion on high educational standards, progress, attainment and welfare of child/children.