



ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM FEDERATION

Parent Forum

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday 28th November @ 3:30 pm

People Invited: Mrs. Dean, Ms Jeffrey, Miss Peeks, Mrs. Palmer, Modu Lumami, Sandra Pauza, Meriam Militi, Sajad Janjua, Helen Li, Sayeda Farjana Tabassum, Beenish Waqas, Aji Pramod, Bushra Khalid, Tehzeeb Moazzam, Jayson Moses, Ruben Murmu.

People Attended:

Mrs. Dean (FD), Miss Peeks (IP), Meriam Militi (MM), Sajad Janjua (SJ) and Sayeda Farjana Tabassum (SFT)

Apologies:

C. Palmer

Welcome and Introductions

- FD warmly welcomed parents and thanked them for attending.

Clarify purpose of meetings and agreed ground rules

- Parent representatives act as spokesperson for their child's year group/class.
- Representatives speak to other parents about their views and report back at forum meetings.
- Parent forum is not for raising individual issues.

Parent feedback from Parents evening

- FD informed that we had 162 feedback responses from parents evening which as a whole, were overwhelmingly positive. The only issue raised by parents was keeping to time limits and meetings occasionally running over.
- SJ- Agreed that overall Parents evening was very positive.
- FD- Also highlighted that child with additional needs can have Parents evening meeting on a different days to discuss issues further.
- All parents agreed that this year was more efficient and effective.
- SFT- mentioned that it is very nice that parents are able to discuss issues with teaching staff after school when necessary.
- FD-emphasised the importance of parents feeling that they can approach class teachers to discuss their children's needs and their progress.

FD reported that as no issues had been forwarded to her as item agendas, she would show parents work that underpins our safeguarding of children.

MM said that she would like to raise an issue.

- MM- highlighted that herself, and other parents, wanted to raise the issue regarding the promotion of diversity across school. In particular a performance within KS2 that included same sex marriage. Her son is in Y5.
- FD- Informed Parent Representatives that this theatre production that came into school during the Autumn term was part of our anti- bullying week. The theatre group in question was a fairy tale with an alternative ending aiming to challenge all forms of bullying within our school.
- FD assured Parent Representatives that the theatre production was age appropriate and is Stone wall approved, which in turn is endorsed by the Department for Education



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(DFE). FD also clarified that this was not an attempt to promote any life style choices but to promote tolerance and respect which are part of our school values and ethos.

Discussion took place with regards to comments received by Parent Forum representatives.

- FD- assured Parent Representatives that the children displayed mature responses regarding the issues raised. FD was present at the workshop, as were Year 5 and Year 6 staff.
- FD also emphasised the need to challenge the inappropriate use of the word 'gay'. FD then went on to explain that some of our children will enter into same sex relationships and it is therefore our duty to ensure that all children feel loved and valued for who they are. It is about challenging stereotypes and making sure that we as a community are promoting tolerance and respect as people make different lifestyle choices.
- FD explained that taken to an extreme, name calling can lead to marginalisation, bullying and even hate crimes. This is why it is important to make children aware that bullying is the same, whether it is targeted at race, sexuality or disability.
- FD explained that a survey on name calling has been distributed to all pupils in KS2 to complete in attempt to highlight areas of potential bullying that needs to be targeted and addressed within school.
- SJ- raised the point that some families do not talk about these issues. SJ added that although he accepts that children will come across these issues throughout their life, it is debatable whether it is age appropriate.
- SJ asked if it is compulsory that our children are taught these things.
- FD- legally parents can exert their right to withdraw children from Religious Education, Collective Worship and (up to the age of Year 7) Sex and Relationships. FD reassured PR that the production was well facilitated and age appropriate. This production is Stone Wall approved, an organisation endorsed by DfE.
- SJ- said that some parents have discussed this with him; SJ wants to know if this is compulsory as many parents have asked.
- FD said that legally, school have to evidence how they prevent bullying of any form. This includes challenging homophobia. This is a legal requirement.
- SJ said that he felt FD had clarified this point and felt capable of passing this on to parents who are concerned or raised these issues with him.
- FD- reiterated that covering such issues is to prevent bullying and promote respect and tolerance.
- SJ suggested a workshop for parents to be arranged when addressing sensitive issues around diversity. This would then allow parents to talk to their children.

- MM commented that it is very difficult to prove when bullying occurs, especially with regards to race. Parents who come from certain countries do face racism and suffer. She spoke of personal experience regarding an incident in the park.
- FD- Stressed the importance of reporting such issues to her if this happens at school, as, it will not be tolerated. In addition, it is against the law. FD will deal with any issue that is brought to her attention.



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Safeguarding in school

FD- due to timing, this will be moved to the next meeting.

FD thanked all attendees for their time.

Date of next meeting

- Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 23rd January 2018

Meeting ended at 4.20pm