

MINCHINHAMPTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Focused governor committee visits

Policy and SDP priority links: Parent Voice/Forum

Agreed visit details

| Governor(s) | Activity | Date and time |
|--|---|---------------|
| David Powell (DP) Kimberley Downton Mike Allen | Headteacher Forum, led by Nick Moss (HT) 5 parents (P) | 06/10/2022 |

Outcomes, progress, barriers and evidence

Note of visit.

HT informed all that this would be a termly meeting. He covered the key points raised at the last forum and requested if there were any other issues parents would like to raise. The following notes aim to reflect the conversation that ensued.

HT updated all with headlines re the key issues.

Emotional Dysregulation

School currently still experiencing difficult 'behaviours'. School presents as an outlier compared to many- as in uphike in SEND need in school very significant and this is the challenge. School prefers to use the term Emotionally Dysregulated (ED). Funds have recently been spent on staffing and resources and school now feels it's in better control of the situation. A key aim is for staff to be firmer & calmer around rest of school to manage those exhibiting ED.

Communication

School is aware of the issues raised at last forum and is still developing solutions. 'We're on it and we want to improve comms with parents'. We recognise there is more to do with parent calendar especially.

Info re progress

This will require a longer term conversation. We'll discuss this later in forum.

Gov question: New lunchtime contract. What is the parent view?

P: Mixed responses but parents overall positive. Some issues with portion sizes and choices for older children due to younger children being served too much. Loss of Jacket pots is unfortunate.

HT: portion size an age old problem and not recent. School looking to tackle food waste. School to investigate take up of pupils- initial indication 60 increase which v positive. .

P: Can there be an alternative diet to sugary breakfast cereals in b'fast club? Head to investigate further.

Comms

HT: Feedback from parents, please? What do they see as issues now?

P: Concern re refreshing/updating calendar.

HT: Calendar needs to be developed more quickly Newsletter long, but key source of info.

P: Could calendar items be flagged up earlier in Newsletters?

P: Is Website primary (and best) method of communication? Could school consider relaunch of 'This is the primary way we find out news' Current diet mixed and muddling for some- especially those newer parents who came to school in covid?

HT: Primary method is newsletter then calendar. Office capacity has now been increased to help with this.

Parent: Finds Gateway app useful.

Gov: Website rich and well developed compared to many schools.

P: Some concern about classroom comms re school trips & visits.

HT: School should respond within 24 hours, but unfortunately the daily circumstances can overwhelm comms.

Gov : It's impressive that school still providing trips in these times of austerity.

Keeping informed by child's progress

HT: Resources such as Spelling Shed & Mindmaths provides a termly diet that parents can use to reinforce learning. Parents, do you know where your child is at. How can you support your child?

P: Online parent eves has not been not good experience...poor sound quality etc Don't get to see children's work. Other parents agreed...general consensus on this issue. Also concern that the evening when parents could come in to see work and discuss progress was near end of last term. Parents felt this too late to help their child.

HT I'm coming to conclusion that there'd be one consult online and one in person. Maybe look to hold Open afternoon in November, then an online with more substance. HT to discuss further with staff and inform parents of changes asap.

P: Can there be regular 'drop-in's' for parents on a theme, eg reading drop-ins?

HT: Pre-covid school ran curriculum evenings, School looking to relaunch these.

HT: Do you feel you're getting heads-up when children struggling?

P: I assume if problem a teacher will tell me...is this correct?

P: My husband Looking to access targeted funding and grants for projects and support for learning challenges

HT: School used to give specific parent advice on how to manage parent evening. We'll reintroduce this. HT reassured forum, if child had any serious issue, teacher will approach parent.

P: My child aware he was being baseline assessed. Can I request assessment results from teachers?

HT: These not graded, but you can request to look at this.

P: How do I to support if I'm concerned over progress. How do I know if my child is achieving to their capacity? How to support able child?

Head Curriculum maps and links to websites provide insight of learning and opps for parent engagement. Class assemblies dropped off during Covid (another window to learning and celebrating achievement) Head intends to reintroduce these.

Parent support in Maths more challenging. Methodology specific and parents using other approaches can muddle child. Reintroducing Maths and other curriculum evenings for parents should clarify how parents can help. Teachers at times have been uploading work on googleclassroom which parents can access. Head to investigate this with staff.

A danger with the approach to maths in the past is it can lead to children overreaching, encouraged by adults and consequentially missing key maths building blocks.

P: For families arriving at school at time of Covid we find it hard to talk to teachers, after the problems Covid presented with comms. This now easing.

Gov How strong PTA this year.

Parent It's new, looking for recruitment drive and aim to get more from upper end of school.

Ramping up and looking for volunteers.

ESafety on next agenda Head becoming very concerned at number of issues being reported from home. Head provides safety newsletter on website <https://www.minchacademy.net/internet-safety/>

The meeting closed at 4.30

Implications for governing body

As with previous Forum, this is only a small sample of parents. Head acknowledged the need to improve/streamline comms and to re-evaluate parent evenings. Governors may wish to consider how they can reach out to ensure that more parent voice is heard over the coming year.