

# Parental Focus Group Minutes



**Date of Meeting:** Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016 (am)  
Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016 (pm)

**Present:** Miss K Govan, Mr D Purvis, Mrs L Guldemond, Mrs S Neilan, Mrs M O'Hara-Harris, Mr S Whiteley, Mrs C Griffin, Mrs H King, Mrs Meyer, Mrs H Mulligan, Miss C Read, Mrs C Seeley, Mrs K Parnell, Mrs L Segal

**Apologies:** Mrs K Britt, Mr T Sureshan

## 1. Welcome

Everybody present was thanked for attending the meeting.

## 2. School Review

The report was distributed for parents to read. Key messages for parents:

- Outcomes for higher ability - pushing them beyond.
- Marking - not enough follow up on the marking.
- Disadvantaged groups/SEN needs pupils fall through the net at transition - SEN - could really help.
- Lots of positives.
- Positive ICT.
- GCSE pod.
- Resources provided.

## 3. Show My Homework

- Very positive.
- Homework:
  - too much
  - standard too high
  - not realistic and too hard
  - anxiety provoking
  - explaining homework verbally as well as putting on Show My Homework
  - homework connected with the lesson
  - homework not set for next day
  - Year 7 targets - issued?
  - attachments come through late
  - homework club is brilliant

- under-current of fear and anxiety with Year 7 about homework
- when does library close?
- this should take 30 minutes - standard comment - remove - particularly Year 9, 10 and 11
- is the by-line correct?
- a reminder to put homework in - sometimes it is not set.
- IT problems in some way.
- Events on SMH - can we use.

#### 4. **John Muir/DofE Award (DH)**

- Mr Harwood gave a presentation on the DofE and its value. School limited by the numbers it can be offered to (42) and Expedition Leaders (4). Great team of staff including Matt Durkin. Where a child is disappointed, they are signposted to other organisations.
- John Muir Award - beach activities including Art and Meditation.

#### 5. **Growth Mindset (JH)**

- Our journey with staff/parents.
- Sheet distributed on top tips for parents. She gave examples of how parents can help pupils improve their work.
- Some debate around how much help/advice parents should give - it was emphasised that it does not have to be every piece of work.
- Parental engagement is key to pupil progress.

#### 6. **Questions/issues from parents**

- Year 7 pupils -staff letting them out late.
- J - quite stressed - some running in the road to get to the station. Struggling with slow walkers.
- Barriers causing problems at station.
- CATs - explain at next meeting.
- E's mum - Mindfulness Course - suggested integrating it into PSHEe - Africa gave them mindfulness. Increases productivity and well-being.
- PSHEe.
- Former parent could train up - can improve concentration. More mental health work with the children.

#### 7. **Pupil Profiles**

- Fine.
- What was the grade based upon?
- Number of pluses to get a certificate - how are we rewarding pupils for plus and minus?
- Reward effort
- Recognition for SEND/LA pupils.

**8. Any Other Business**

- Non-Catholics can't receive Holy Communion at masses. Pupils feed back that non-Catholics are not Christian.
- Letters from school don't get home (website/Show My Homework).
- AM groups are pleased with the jumpers.
- Binder for journal - possibly tougher piece of plastic.
- Grandparents Mass was a great success.

Term 3 dates: 6.15pm Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017

9.15am Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017