

# Parental Focus Group Minutes



**Date of Meeting:** Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> January (pm)  
Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> January (am)

**Present:** Mrs Davis, Mrs Griffin, Mrs Segal, Mrs King, Miss Govan, Mrs Guldemon, Mrs Howard, Mrs O'Hara-Harris, Ms Romero, Mrs Whitely

**Apologies:** C Read, C Young

## 1. Welcome

Everybody present was thanked for attending the meeting.

## 2. Matters Arising

- Some of the pupils see Catholics and Christians as different. To be emphasised that this is not the case. Holy Communion - all expected to go out and either receive Holy Communion or take a blessing. We do not distinguish between Catholics and Non-Catholics - all treated the same. 19% non-Catholic pupils across the school. Average in a year group is 15-17%.
- Revision guides - can the list go on website so parents can purchase for Year 10 pupils as well as Year 11.
- All Upper School pupils to be reminded how to use GCSEpod.
- Is Isle of Wight trip full?
- Can the Kerala Community use the field for a cricket match?

## 3. Handling Conflict

Handling conflict: advice for pupils. Miss Cronin shared a poster which had been made following inset on difficult conversations. Parents really liked it. The fuller document to be added to the minutes. Agreed the poster: 'The Ten Commandments for handling conflict' would be very useful in the classroom.

## 4. E-Safety App

Miss Cronin shared details of an app parents can purchase to ensure their children are safe on-line.

Screentime - costs £29.99 per year with unlimited devices per child. Three payment options: £29.99 per year, £14.99 every 6 months, £2.99 per month.

Link for parents to have a free trial:

<https://remote.screentimelabs.com/?a=signup#/signup>

Parents need to be monitoring pupil use of internet particularly late at night. Gaming a growing problem late at night.

## 5. **Curriculum Structure 2017-2019**

Miss Cronin shared the current model which had been trialled twice. She reminded parents of the need to reduce the number of subjects pupils studied to cope with the level of challenge and to ensure quality outcomes.

All parents satisfied with the model.

## 6. **LGBT**

- Mr Carradine is the champion for LGBT issues. He gave a presentation which was shared with staff and explained how the approach to issues will be launched with pupils. See slides attached.
- Mr Carradine explained that St Richard's is trying to eradicate any offensive language relating to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community. Any pupils who are heard to be using offensive language will get five days community service; their behaviour will be monitored by a staff member and it will be logged on Sims. Targeted use will result in Pastoral Leaders logging it as a hate related incident. The incident will be investigated by Pastoral Leaders, put on SIMS and the pupils given Close Supervision.
- Parents asked if SIMS records follow the pupils to college. Mrs Bligh confirmed that records would only be passed on if there was a safeguarding issue.
- Parents said that they noticed insults start in Year 5 at Primary School. Some children think it's cool to be called insulting names.
- Everyone discussed the fact that the Media and Sports Personalities are trying to help young people by bringing more LGBT issues into the spotlight.

## 7. **Mental Health Issues**

- Mrs Bligh spoke about the different types of mental health problems and gave a presentation.
- Statistics show 3 in 10 pupils have issues with mental health and take approximately one year to tell their family.
- Mrs Bligh confirmed that behaviour is the best it's ever been at St Richard's although anxiety levels are the highest they've ever been.
- Parents suggested getting someone in to discuss growth mindset with pupils: pupils and parents could do with reminders that all the changes young people go through are normal.
- Parents and teachers concerned regarding pupils who self-harm, especially in hidden places. Mrs Bligh confirmed that parents will be able to access self-help resources if we are given a grant.
- Concern that some pupils glamourise self-harm by taking photos and sharing them in groups on social media.
- Mrs Bligh gave parents some tips she received at a workshop to help self-harmers. Tips include:
  - *Volunteering*
  - *Baking*
  - *Knitting*
  - *Exercising*
- St Richard's will be focusing on emotional health and resilience – giving tips on

how to cope and ask for support.

- Mrs Bligh talked through plans for the Mental Health project – what has been done already and what will be done in the future.

#### 8. **Issues you would like to raise**

- Miss Cronin and parents discussed ideas on how to involve more parents in the PFG. Suggested ideas included putting a photo of the group in the newsletter/website to show that it is an informal meeting, reaching out to friends, promoting the PFG at Parents Evening or similar events.
- Miss Cronin confirmed that the use of minuses is being removed from pupil profiles as teachers feel it is too negative. Pupils will be given an intervention code only. Parents were reminded that if a pupil is given a code, to look for the reason e.g. understanding or effort.
- Miss Cronin said she would like to use Rag code on the code only, so parents can see their child's progress clearly.
- Parents raised the idea of having a reminder on Show My Homework to alert them that the newsletter is available to view on the website. Some parents have contacted the school to ask for paper copies which isn't a problem
- Mobile phone abuse – parent raised the fact that pupils have been using their phone in school and filming themselves in different areas, then posting it online. Miss Cronin confirmed that she will be looking into this. The parent to send further details.

#### 9. **AOB**

- Miss Cronin confirmed that the Summer Fayre is likely to take place on Saturday 17th June due to a clash with Little Common School and their fayre and confirmation events in July.