

Parental Focus Group Minutes



Date of Meeting: **Wednesday, 13th November (morning)**
Thursday, 21st November (evening)

Present: **Morning group:** Mrs T Hindmarsh, Mrs E Stevens, Mrs J Towns, Ms R Jones, Mrs McAdie
Evening group: Mrs Sanderson-Smith, Mrs A Corbin, Mrs C Brown, Mr O'Neill and Lindsey Wilson (Governor)

Apologies: T Gasson, C Pepper, C Pocock

1. **Matters Arising**

Evening group - introduction to Lindsey Wilson, Governor - who explained her role in the school.

2. **PSHEe Programme**

Miss Cronin showed a slide presentation and handed out a DfE newsheet for parents on understanding PSHEe, in the absence of Ms Vanvuchelen who is the PSHEe Co-ordinator.

- PSHEe lesson takes place every Tuesday morning – disruptions during this time are not acceptable.
- Ms Vanvuchelen has updated all areas of study and created resources which are shared with staff to use.
- 3 areas studied are: health and wellbeing, relationships and living in a wider world.
- No assessment or PSHEe books.
- From next year, RSE is statutory – we are doing it now.
- PSHEe Reps are new this year and meet once a term.
- Pupils can anonymously put questions into boxes which are answered the following week.
- All forms have a Mass once a year during this time (2 forms together) and also prepare an assembly.
- Yoga is new this year – will be set up as a club and Years 7 & 8 have it timetabled into a dance lesson.
- Ms Vanvuchelen will come to next session to go through examples of work and discuss pupil voice on PSHEe.

3. **Mission Week**

Parents in the morning group participated in a Mission Week assembly, which they enjoyed. Evening group parents were told that the Mission Week had been successful and many pupils were willing to support Jo in moving ideas forward.

4. **Revision Strategies**

Will be covered at next meeting.

5. **Discussion of WWW/EBI from Last Term**

Miss Cronin responded to the WWW/EBI from last term.

- Will organise a revision session for Year 10 within school and also for KS3 parents.
- Formal diary pack is a good idea for Year 7.
- Larger lockers are not possible due to space.
- Sports coaching – hoping to get more coaches into school.
- Underperforming boys are a priority this year.
- Emotional Support – Emma Dann is now the lead on this.
- More coat pegs requested – we are looking into this.
- Retreats – Jo Doyle is looking at more centres we could use including London. Some retreats could be offered as a day retreat. Whitstable retreat for Year 7/8 pupils due to take place at the end of Mission Week.
- House points – staff have been asked to follow criteria and to remember to award points.
- Each year, we add more and more emotional support workshops to the curriculum and extra-curricular programme.

6. Introduction to Emma Dann

Emma came into the morning meeting and outlined her new role:

- Role involves social, emotional and mental health support and Looked After Children, including attending meetings about them. Acts as extra support to Pastoral Leaders.
- Children with a one off crisis come to see her. She also gives groups sessions on topics like hate language, resilience and anxiety and 1:1 on anger management. Training to Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.
- Liaises with other agencies that help our pupils.
- Visits our pupils at other provisions.
- Pupils can self-refer or be referred by Pastoral Leader.
- Introduced herself in assemblies – pupils know where her office is.
- Sometimes goes into lesson with a pupil or can be used by those with an 'exit card'
- She is employed full-time including holidays and is mostly funded by Virtual School.

7. Picking Up and Dropping Off

Miss Cronin advised parents to use the seafront as we can get a member of staff to walk down with pupils. Parents reminded not to park in front of driveways and to pass the message on.

8. Teaching and Learning

The morning group received a presentation from Mrs Hoyle, Teaching and Learning Lead and were shown a poster about the St Richard's 6 and the Teaching and Learning Booklet that teachers receive. The main points were:

- Trying to raise standards in quality of teaching – teachers need to be learning all the time and lots of recent changes in primary schools, with GCSEs and Sixth Form studies.
- Each term there is a T&L theme focusing on one aspect of St Richard's 6 and every Thursday there is a tip during the staff briefing.
- Subject Leaders do drop-ins to lessons and write a report each term to Miss Cronin based on the T&L theme.
- Every teacher is part of one of the T&L groups: Teaching Assistants, Emerging Technologies, New teachers, Stretch and challenge – this is also linked to the appraisal system.
- Pupil voice carried out to see if themes are working in lessons.

9. Helping your Child in Modern Languages

Will be in Term 3 for morning group. The evening group received a presentation from Miss Chong. Miss Chong went through a range of ways to support pupils at home with

languages. Key is getting them to teach you new things they have learnt. If parents can test pupils on vocabulary and language regularly it would help hugely.



How can I help my child with their language studies at home?

It is really not necessary to know the target foreign language at all. You can support your child by:

- Asking what has been learnt in each lesson.
- Reinforcing the importance of spending 10 minutes at the end of each lesson revisiting class notes.
- Testing your child on class notes made, especially on vocabulary and grammar when learning is set for homework.
- Discouraging your child from using Google Translate or other similar online translation tools. Instead, provide an up-to-date Collins dictionary to support the completion of homework.
- Encouraging your child to visit the following language websites to practise reading and writing the language and to hear the language spoken:

<https://www.kerboodle.com>

(to access the GCSE textbooks and KS3 French course materials)

<https://www.pearsonactivelearn.com>

(for the KS3 German and Spanish course materials and a range of self-assessment materials)

<https://quizlet.com> & <https://www.memrise.com> (to learn vocabulary)

<http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/> & <http://www.languageskills.co.uk>

(for revision and grammar practice)

<http://www.wordreference.com> (to access an online dictionary)

www.thisislanguage.com (Listening practice and revision activities for Year 11 pupils)

10. Any Other Business

- Feedback on Homework Policies – none was received. Miss Cronin reiterated the following: weekend homework should be set by end of school on Friday and homework should not be set after 3.30pm as some children can only do homework in school. Some parents raised the lateness of some homework appearing on EduLink e.g. Sunday evening.
- Please can English present on how we can help our children with their studies, in particular Literature. Really keen to know which DVDs are recommended for pupils to watch to support understanding of the text.
- Any further tips for maths would also be appreciated.

Attachments:

1. DfE Understanding Relationships, Sex and Health Education at your child's secondary school: a guide for parents.