

# Parental Focus Group Minutes



**Date of Meeting:** **Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> January (morning) via Google Meet**  
**Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> January (evening) via Google Meet**

**Present:** **Morning group:** Mrs Hindmarsh, Mrs Beck, Mrs Towns, Mrs Weakley, Mrs Stevens, Miss Oram

**Evening group:** Mrs Carnell, Mrs Brown, Mrs King, Mrs Griffin

**Apologies:** Mrs Carey

## 1. **Matters Arising**

Miss Cronin welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Parents Evening went ahead for Yr 7 and Yr11. Miss Cronin asked for parents' opinions:

- Some problems with wifi but, on the whole, it was very efficient.
- Good way to do it.
- Teachers liked it but aren't always able to see everyone and miss face-to-face contact.
- Good system to use but would like to return to normal long-term.
- Maybe put it into place for parents that aren't able to get to parents' evening at school.
- Very efficient.
- Could parent have a choice – remote or 'live' – this may be difficult.
- Five minutes is good.
- Really like face to face.
- Effective alternative in the circumstances.

## 2. **School Update**

All ok. Running Key Worker school with reduced numbers. Don't want Year 7/8 children at home on their own. Pupils are now in a bubble instead of walking around school. However, this means that if someone contracts the virus, the whole bubble will likely need to isolate.

## 3. **Curriculum Model 2021-2023 – Year 9**

Miss Cronin talked through the options model with parents.

Pupils thought choices were limited.

Clear and concise

Monday – curriculum video will be released. Miss Cronin will give a speech. There will be videos for parents/pupils to watch on different subjects. 7pm can book School Cloud appointments to raise questions about options.

## 4. **Remote Education**

Mrs Hoyle gave parents an update:

- Remote learning policy and information on website
- Pupils follow their timetables. Google Meet or recorded lessons
- All resources on Google Classroom

- Spent time training children to remember – use Google Meet/ Google Classroom
- Website has been created with video clips to help remind them how to do things
- Resources – Google Classroom. Teachers trying to avoid parents having to print at home. Reduce number of booklets sent home.
- Some useful resources have been sent home to pupils.
- PE are setting challenges for pupils as they aren't able to do 'live' lessons
- We are trialling lots of different strategies
- Recording little notes instead of writing feedback
- Want to look at techniques to move them away from screen
- Homework, trying to encourage staff to reduce homework done on screen
- Trying to continue experiences that children would receive in school
- Trying to find new things
- Monitoring progress very carefully, attendance, completing work, providing feedback, checking homework
- House Points system is still being used
- Sending postcards home for pupils to give praise
- Attendance Officer keeping eye on what is happening, as well as Pastoral Leader
- Remote Learning profile to be sent to parents covering engagement
- SEN – accommodating as best as we can. Encouraged as many as possible to attend school. Lots of classroom support. TA's will be phoning to have regular contact with parents/pupils. Trying not to leave anyone behind.
- Technology issue has been a concern, everyone who needs access to IT has it. 60 laptops have been loaned to pupils. Parents/pupils can be too proud to show they are struggling.

Help from parents has been brilliant. Pupils are participating very well in lessons. Key things that have helped:

- Routines and establishing habits.
- High expectations from parents
- Helping to start the day positively
- Keep bedtime routines, digital device rules, give eyes a break
- Keep talking about how it's working over time - some pupils finding things a lot harder remote learning
- Setting up a good learning environment
- Keeping an eye, door open
- Don't expect parents to be teachers, but nurture, encouragement and support are vital.
- Remote learning is encouraging independent skills

Questions to ask your children:

- What classes/assessment do you have?
- Do you need support with anything?
- Any resources need for the day?
- Noting when breaks are so they can have physical break
- How far did you get in your task?
- What did you discover?
- Day ahead – any worries/issues to resolve?

Please keep in touch with school.

Mrs Hoyle thanked parents for the support they are giving to their children.

## **WWW**

- Connection and structure to the day is brilliant
- Interesting and helpful as some parents listen to the lessons – helps with communicating with child
- Some teachers are fantastic. Short, sharp, snappy. Clear explanations. Pupils have time to do the exercise and review at the end.
- Live lessons make a huge difference
- Amazing support from school
- Form time has been brilliant. Best thing. More faces to see. Hobbies...
- More work seems to get done when camera is on.
- All going well - really structured - feedback has been positive.
- Thank all teachers and support staff.
- All amazing - pastoral / remote education.
- Transition in place.
- Very smooth.
- Key worker pupils are well-supported.
- Pupils are well looked after – one less worry for families.
- Some of the children have taken on extra work.
- Huge thanks to staff - normality. Sense of belonging.
- Staff have nailed it.
- Seamless.
- One parent giving the access support their child would have received in school - could other parents help their children who struggle?
- Staff have given great feedback.

## **EBI**

- Situations where mics are left on and teachers bombarded with questions. No structure. Questions the whole time – trying to do too much at once.
- Long days on screen – 8.40am start. Breaks for PE/Drama. Sometimes get a break time, but can't leave laptop as they have been asked to upload work from previous lesson.
- Lunchtime is the same thing – not enough time to take a complete break.
- Homework should be shorter or not on screen.
- Some differences between years and laptop cameras. Good for younger pupils, older pupils not too worried about having their cameras on.
- Year 10 – sometimes when set work, don't finish and carry on next lesson. Technical issue means work isn't recorded.
- By the time it comes to 3.15pm, some pupils not in the right head space to do quality homework. Less homework/screen time for younger pupils.
- Year 7 – chat that goes on within lesson isn't relevant – on Google Chat. DC: will make sure staff are on to that.
- Poor internet connection – means some pupils aren't able to connect to lessons as well if other family members are working from home. DC: extra internet data support can be provided in some cases.
- Still some next day homework being set. Still sometimes not on Edulink.
- Homework has been massively reduced in Year 7 / Year 9.

## **5. Pastoral support during lockdown (DB)**

Mrs Bligh joined the meeting. See slides attached.

- Rise in lots of mental health issues, nationally.
- Lots of training happened during/after the first lockdown
- Looked at increasing provision where we could – counsellor, mental health and well-being (good relationship) trainees.
- Able to have some teachers do some morning sessions – pastoral support.
- Contingency Plans - followed an evaluation of Lockdown One.

- Current programme includes more connection, particularly in the morning form.
- Good increase of staff who trained in Mental Health/Well-being and First Aid.
- Classes talking about well-being, assemblies.
- From January: been planning since September. Everyone agreed that routine is key. Form time is crucial for connection.
- Looking at break-out rooms
- Support services in school, online and on Edulink.
- Booklet and other resources on website. Signposting etc.
- Virtual support – meeting with young people
- Andrew Wright working with families
- Safeguarding online
- Pupil Voice surveys
- Welfare calls
- Recovery programme was in place for September with lots more provision. All departments contributed to the recovery programme.
- Mrs King raised that the pupils really missed ‘fun’ - interacting with each other. Difficult with the RA and the restrictions.
- PE - share videos so they have a choice of activities.
- 8.40 Form - great.
- The experience is different depending on your form tutor - give form tutors a helpsheet. ER - very good at breakout rooms. Quizzes amongst forms works well.
- A scavenger hunt was suggested.
- Give form members a chance to lead the form activities.
- Pupil Voice to judge www/ebi for form time.

Upskilling in RE.

Medical ethics in RE – issue dealt with really quickly.

Activity – walk/run to Olympics is whole school. Open to everyone.

8.15-8.30 - Emma D and Jo - need to encourage pupils to join.

Support pupils to make the right choices.

Would love to hear what parents think of the pastoral support provided.

#### **6. Pupil profile sheet for tracking engagement and progress**

Parents will be sent a profile sheet, detailing their child’s remote engagement: quick snapshot for everyone so that we can pick up on children who are struggling or not doing anything all day. Some children are disengaged. No sense of urgency. Pastoral Leader will be in touch. Will bring children in to catch up and will form their own bubble.

#### **7. Any Other Business**

None.

**Term 4 dates:** 9.15am Wednesday 28 April 2021 and 6:00pm Thursday 29 April 2021.

#### **Attachments:**

Remote Learning Report

Options Model