



Parent Forum Meeting MINUTES

Meeting date | time 08.10.24 9am – 10am

Meeting location St Marks C of E Academy

Meeting called by Deirdre Petersen

Type of meeting Parent Forum

Note taker NE

Attendees

DP (Head teacher) VJ Assistant HOA, MJ (Head Teacher Jacobstow)

(parents) VK, HS, SF-L, CM, TT, HB, CR, CC, CG ,MJ, VB, KF, RC

(staff) NE

Apologies: CP, KM

INTRODUCTION/ WELCOME

DP welcomes everyone to the forum and outlines working in partnership for the benefit of the children and our school community. Trust vision and values seeks parent voice and engagement so that we are working together for the benefit of the school and the children’s Flourishing Futures – we are working in partnership to shape the future of our children. Cornwall Hub leadership team – introductions – MJ, VJ. DP outlines the action plan for working as a hub in 2024-25. Hub leadership team to give all the local children across our 3 schools the same educational and enrichment offer.

Parents introduced themselves to the forum so that new leadership can place children with parents/families.

Working together - MJ introduced herself to parents as HT of Jacobstow Academy.

DP explained that parent voice is very important – it's an open/ interactive forum and parents invited to ask questions as points are addressed.

ACTIONS FROM LAST PARENT FORUM - N/A – last Parent Forum was a ‘Meet & Greet’ for DP/VJ.

1.1	<p>CORNWALL HUB VISION</p> <p>DP: Cornwall hub vision – all children will have the same offer across the 3 schools. Leadership is collaborative – professional development is hub wide as teachers in small schools cannot be masters of everything.</p>
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VJ: there may be joining up of sports teams across the schools. DP – enrichment offer is being shared, music ensemble this week across the 3 schools as an example of this.

DP: Shared responsibility – sharing good practice with teachers by visiting other hub schools. Shared curriculum and subject leadership across the hub. As St Marks is the smallest school in the hub we are sharing subject leadership (Phonics, History, Maths, English).

DP: Inclusion – every single child has the same opportunities and enrichment offer whether that is music or sports etc. All schools will benefit from hub wide working. Hub wide residential is booked – info to follow to parents.

Parent survey – this is open and available from today (09/10/24). Trust wide survey – important that we get your say as parents.

MJ (parent) - asked what has happened at Trust level to bring this hub model now and leadership changes.

DP explained how the hub has been developed from 3 small rural schools working separately to having a collaborative approach. DP has experience of working across smaller schools and took the opportunity to become hub lead and step across to lead St Marks. The parent said they could already see how proactive DP and leadership are since the start of the academic year.

1.2 VISION & VALUES

VJ - Respect/learning behaviours have been implemented across the school. Collective Worship is a time to teach these behaviours which are based on our core Christian values (Respect, Love and Hope). KS1 and 2 have versions to help children to learn and remember them. The learning behaviours at st mark's are:

Resilience (trying our best, not giving up)

Empathy (understanding of self/ others)

Self-regulation (being ready for learning)

Pride (in presentation of self and work)

Excellence (being the best we can be)

Curiosity (asking and answering questions)

Togetherness (inclusive culture)

DP – In the summer term, during pupil voice activities, the children were not able to talk about the school's Christian values. This is why the values have been simplified and now embedded. It's been a simplification of the values under our Trust mission of Flourishing Futures. Pupil voice was captured and the children responded that Respect, Love and Hope were the most important values to them.

School values are: Love, Respect and Hope. Parent said they felt the values had already been embedded well through the curriculum and whole school community.

<p>1.3</p>	<p>SCHOOL PRIORITIES</p> <p>DP: Hub level – Cornwall Hub Improvement Plan – Excellent quality teaching and learning brought about through shared professional development.</p> <p>Parent - Will there be Subject leaders at St Marks? Will subject leaders from the other 2 school be in St Mark’s monitoring and developing?</p> <p>DP – This is more tricky at the moment which is why sharing expertise is so important. We have two newly qualified teachers (ECTs) – coaching and mentoring by DP and VJ. Supply in Year 5/6 but this will soon be recruited. Parent asked if we can keep Mr Legg!</p> <p>DP – Main priorities are the quality of T&L, a robust Safeguarding culture and building relationships within the school community.</p> <p>NE – Introduction as Fasmily Support Worker – in St Mark’s once a week – there is lots of support we can signpost parents to – Early Help, foodbank, EMHP/support worker.</p> <p>COMMUNICATION</p> <p>Communication – VB (parent) raised that the new office hours are not working. Picking children up early is almost impossible – no one is there to answer the gate/door.</p> <p>MJ (parent) asked about lack of funding and what has happened to cause this? DP addressed this – explaining that lack of Gov funding means that at Trust level there has had to be financial cuts. Cuts in admin structure has been made at Trust level, and in all schools. This is to keep teachers and support staff in place.</p> <p>A parent asked if there is a solution to the problem? DP explained about the telephone system where you can leave a message.</p> <p>VJ – if there is an emergency, we will phone the parent and look after the child until someone can collect. A parent mentioned that Y5/6 walk to the park – what if they are left down at the park? Staff are training children that they must walk straight back to school.</p> <p>DP reassured parents that they can make arrangements with other parents to collect in the event of an emergency – staff can seek consent by phoning the parent. DP asked parents to phone the school in the first instance before 12.30 if possible – we cannot expect teachers to come out of class to answer phones and gate.</p> <p>Parent asked why 4 staff have left? Where has the funding gone? Discussion about the new doors – DP explained that this was ring fenced money to improve the building for H&S reasons (fire doors).</p> <p>DP: New structuring means a class teacher for nursery and EYFS – an early years unit.</p> <p>S F-L (parent) said that her child is not happy in reception – doesn't think it is working having nursery with R. Confusing for the R children – still mixing with the nursery and wondering why she can't be the same as the nursery children (wearing costumes). Another parent commented that she feels like her children are “stuck” in a pre-school rather than in R and part of the school.</p> <p>R parents do not feel like their children are part of the whole school as they are in a room with nursery children. Parents don't feel there is enough of a separation for R children, and they need to be in the school in a structured classroom.</p>
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DP explained that the nursery children were very separated from the whole school before but we have now created an inclusive culture. The teacher was teaching R,1&2 which was not an ideal arrangement. Early Years stems from 0 – 5 years under Development Matters and the EY curriculum.

Parents commented that they are not looking for nursery to be part of the school or expected to be part of Collective Worship and eat lunch as a whole school.

MJ and DP explained continuous provision in EYFS – the curriculum for early years is 0 – 5.

VJ – explained that the two timetables in EY are working well. Staff are well supported and a strong team.

DP – Mrs Edwards is an experienced Early Years professional.

MJ – spoke about the same model working well at Jacobstow. Children are thriving in their learning and explained that some parents choose to send their children to Jacobstow because of this provision. MJ spoke about change and perspective and reassured parents that we all want the best for the children. Decisions are made so that the children can thrive and we welcome feedback.

A parent asked if staff feel supported by the trust? MJ said that the support from the trust is amazing and she has never experienced such a high level of support as a leader.

SCHOOL NUMBERS

A parent asked if the school would close as so many children have left? DP explained that this is parental choice. Asked for parents to give us a chance as a new school leadership. MJ said the same has happened at Jacobstow and Marhamchurch – we are now consistent and moving forward. Positive communication from school and parents is key. This is why we have a hub wide approach. A parent asked if leadership are open to change? DP reassured parents that we are open to change and this is why parent forums are important. Challenging questions are always welcomed.

Parents want reassurance about Reception class and how this is going to work as they feel this is key to future school growth. DP urged parents to speak positively about the school and give us a chance to demonstrate how positive the changes are going to be, moving forward.

ACTION: Parent forums will be once every half term.

A parent spoke of a very negative experience with the previous Head Teacher. Their children did not want to come to school. They wanted to share that the new leadership has been a positive change, and the school feels so much better/their children are happy and settled again.

Discussion about challenging and feedback being so important.

Trust EY lead visited last week – support has been put into place after this monitoring.

Behaviour - a brief discussion about the new restorative good behaviour policy.

1.4	<p>LOOKING FORWARD</p> <p>New gate opening time: 8.35am from Mon14 Oct.</p> <p>PTA update – financially in a good place (legacy money). CC is the Chair. PTA would like to meet with HT to plan for Christmas and the AGM is also due. Need a Secretary and at least 3 more parents to join the team. Communication has not been good in the past.</p> <p>ACTION – DP to work with PTA to arrange an AGM to recruit new members.</p>
1.5	<p>AOB</p> <p>Action: Parent survey to be sent out this week to see whether a breakfast club is viable numbers wise. Discussion also about after school clubs for wrap around care.</p> <p>Action: Staff reminder to leave a message for parents if telephoned so that any panic can be avoided.</p> <p>Action: Trust wide support for staff to be communicated to all parents.</p> <p>Action: Considerate parking. DP to remind staff about suitable places to park to ease congestion in the car park.</p> <p>Action: Nursery and R children will be collected by parents in the playground from Mon 14 Oct.</p> <p>Action: Positive Behaviour system to be shared with parents.</p>

DP thanks everyone for attending. Meeting closed at 10.25