

Parent Voice 4th July 2019 9am-10am

Attendees:

AH – Pastoral Leader

RD – Parent Governor

Parents: LT, JF, NM, VL, Dorefte Strachan, JH, JB, JF, BG, GE

The meeting was opened by AH and RD, parents welcomed. It was discussed that this was an initial meeting for the new Parent Voice group where it was confirmed that people wished this to stay fairly informal so that parents felt they could discuss issues/concerns without judgement in a safe environment. However the group was one of proactivity and having ideas to improve the school for both their children, but also for the parents, as part of a whole school TEAM ethos and community.

It was agreed that children would always be welcome at all future meetings and that coffee/tea and cakes/biscuits would always be provided. With thanks to LT and RD for providing all the home made cakes today.

All present gave their contact details and confirmed they wished to remain involved in the group and to participate regularly. It was suggested that meetings could be half termly so that progress could be discussed. It was agreed that the group would be a way of changing things in the school for the better and no individual child would be discussed, it was about a whole school approach. There would be a focus on 'quick fixes' but also more long term projects/changes.

The opening of the new Pastoral Centre was discussed briefly and everyone thought that a regular parent coffee morning/drop in would be very well received by parents and also a way of raising money for specific ideas.

Several topics were discussed:

1. The passage way/path and gate leading into the school is too narrow and busy and in the winter it is muddy making it very difficult to pass on.
 - Removal of the trees – LT knows a tree surgeon but we would likely need council approval, could the Head confirm.
 - Concreting the muddy areas to make the path wider, money was an issue but could something be done in the meantime or could we fundraise to get this done asap?

Concerns were also raised regarding the slopes leading down to the classrooms which are dangerous for children.

2. The purchasing of a defibrillator for the school (LHS & CTS both have one).
 - There is a charity which would part fund this £1,600 – Jo will confirm
 - The school could fundraise for the other £1,500 for the purchase of this – non uniform days more often, charity bake sales; parents would be informed in advance

so they know exactly where their money is going to, therefore, everyone is invested in this. Could we approach the local children's centre or businesses and ask for donations?

- The new Pastoral Centre could have a fundraising board that is visible so parents can see how the fund raising is going – LT keen to create this.

3. More equipment/things for children to use at break times as pupils are 'bored'

- There was an awareness that currently the equipment is not well cared for by the pupils and is often damaged or broken
- Parents were keen to be able to come into school and offer their help at lunch times – could we have a pool of parent volunteers to come in and play games with children, mini craft clubs etc so that there is more choice for pupils at lunch time? DBS issues will need to be discussed with the Head – could one DBS parent be paired with a non DBS parent as a form of 'buddy' system?
- Parents could come in and see the lunchtimes and therefore come up with ideas and solutions which could be implemented.

4. Use of the Pastoral Centre/Raising Awareness on safety

- As well as coffee mornings parents wanted training to be provided in some of the following areas – first aid, safety of children (seatbelts being worn in cars, what children should eat and drink, how and when to use the 999 system etc). This could also be curriculum based or assemblies for the children.
- The Centre could have displays to educate parents on sugars in foods etc.
- Could we have an Awareness Day where parents and children are invited in with the 999 services to learn about basic first aid, when to call 999, when to call 101, when to go to A&E or see the GP or pharmacist? Encouraging parental involvement and TEAM ethos. People felt parents needed to be educated about dangers as much as their children.
- Do all classrooms have strip thermometers? How are temperatures taken? AH to find out from the Head, could we fundraise to buy more for the classrooms.

Actions:

AH to feed the above back to the Head.

AH/Head to meet with PTA re fundraising.

Date of next meeting to be confirmed in the new academic year.