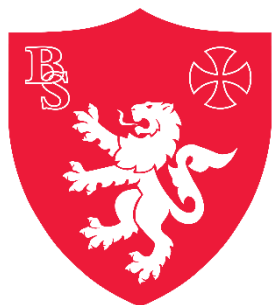


Parent Forum Minutes



CHILDREN COME FIRST.

Meeting title: Autumn term meeting of the Brownlow Parent Forum

Date and time: 28th October 2021 at 6.00pm

Location: Brownlow Primary School

In attendance

Parents:

- Emily Blowers
- Jayne Croxford
- Jennifer Norwood
- Sam Sanders

Staff:

- Ian Toon - Headteacher
- Sandie Hart – Pastoral Manager
- Michelle Wright – MET Clerk (Minutes)

Welcome and Introductions

Ian Toon (IT) welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the purpose of the Forum.

It was explained that key issues would be reported back to the MET Trust Board to enable the Trustees to hold the school to account.

Discussion points raised by parents:

Extra-curricular activities: Parents were pleased with the variety of activities that had been made available since the start of the new academic year. It was noted that more opportunities could be provided for the younger pupils. This was acknowledged by IT who said that efforts would be made to rotate the activities round to enable younger pupils to take part. It was agreed to circulate further information about the craft club to parents via the Year 1 team.

It was explained that the school was keen to further develop its extra-curricular offer and provide a wider variety of activities, such as cooking. Experienced members of staff had been asked to introduce further activities.

Communications: In response to feedback received at the previous Parent Forum, a weekly update letter from IT was being sent to parents every Friday afternoon. This also included a short note from the Trust's CEO. The parents confirmed that they liked the letter. They noted that it contained the right amount of information and that they were happy to receive it on Friday afternoons. They also appreciated the extra round-up letter that was sent just before the October half-term break.

Parent evenings: Virtual parent evenings were held in the first half-term of the new academic year due to Covid restrictions. Some parents had preferred the opportunity to attend virtually, particularly those with more than one child at the school, as it made for a better use of time. Other parents explained that they missed the face-to-face parent evenings as this gave them the opportunity to see the classrooms.

IT confirmed that the spring term parent evenings would be held in-person, pending the Covid situation. The school was also looking at the possibility of holding an open afternoon to give parents the opportunity to see the children in their classrooms and to meet informally with the teachers.

The parents expressed an interest in the school sharing more examples of pupils' work, including on social media. IT explained some of the limitations of posting to Facebook and Twitter, with regards to both comment moderation and GDPR. The parents confirmed that they did not need to see photos of the children, just the work itself. IT agreed to look into the possibility of setting up a school Facebook page to sit alongside the existing Wellbeing Hub page. The parents pointed out that most parents use Facebook as opposed to Twitter.

Behaviour policy: The impact of the new uniform policy was raised by parents. It was noted that some children had felt anxious about not adhering closely enough to the new rules. IT explained that the school was taking a proportionate approach and children would not be punished for any minor breaches of the uniform policy. Parents were also informed that pupils had been reassured about this in assemblies. It was confirmed that pupils had been allowed to wear summer uniform during the first half-term of the new academic year. Parents said it would have been useful to have had this clarified in a communication to parents.

IT outlined the rationale for the new behaviour policy and culture, which had been adopted by all MET schools. It was explained that the policy was based on the work of Tom Bennett, a behaviour specialist and former DfE advisor. His research had found that getting the culture right in school could have a significant impact on pupil outcomes. This could be achieved by instilling certain behavioural routines and habits which enable pupils to develop valuable life skills. Such an approach could also help to close the gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils in and beyond school.

IT thanked the parents for attending and for their contributions. It was explained that minutes from the meeting would be produced and then published on the school website for parents' information.

It was confirmed that further Forums would be held on 24th February and 30th June 2022 at 6pm.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm.

