

Parent Forum | MINUTES

Meeting date | time 13/10/2021 | **Meeting location** Exbourne C of E Primary School

Meeting called by Deirdre Petersen

Deirdre Petersen (staff)

Type of meeting Parent Voice

Hannah Whiteley (staff)

Nick Pearson (staff)

Note taker D Petersen

(Parents/ community):

Pete Vallance (parent and pre school committee Treasurer)

Apologies:

Lisa Paton (Exec Principal)

Sarah Bourne (parent)

1. INTRODUCTION TO ETHOS / REMINDER OF DUTY AND TRUST VALUES:

DP - introduction, reminding the ethos committee of our Trust cooperative values that underpin everything we do as an Academy school. The Ethos Committee's role is to ensure that the Multi Academy Trust's (MAT) Values, Vision and Aims are embedded in the actions and activities of Exbourne C of E Primary School. A reminder is given of the Trust's co-operative values: Self-help, Self-responsibility, Democracy, Equality, Equity, Solidarity. Reminder of the main duties of the Ethos Committee:

- To preserve and develop the Co-operative values and the distinctiveness of the school.
- To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the school's leadership and management with regard to the maintenance of the Co-Operative values.
- To ensure the pastoral care of the children and staff, including how the school meets the needs of learners through its implementation of the Co-Operative values.
- To ensure that the voice of the local community, in particular, but not exclusively parents, staff and children is understood.

Exbourne Primary strives to maintain it's individual and Christian distinctiveness.

DP also added that the minutes of this committee would be shared with Trustees and that parent, staff, community and pupil voice are valued.

2. ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING:

a) Playground plans/ Sacred Space:

DP - our new playground equipment is being installed over half term. Site security is also being addressed with the steps to the playground being extended and railed for safety. Sacred space will have new seating to allow more pupils to enjoy the space for learning and

reflection. DP working with DWT (Devon Wildlife Trust) on maximizing the playground area - ideas around vertical gardening being explored.

b) Communication:

DP - we have addressed issues around school - parent communication. Email to admin for queries to teachers and Principal. This is now clear on new website. Text messaging is working well. We have an open door policy, please feel free to speak to your child's class teacher and then to make an appointment with DP if necessary. PV - advice given on meeting parents where they are comfortable eg, if ordering a meal on Gateway, parents might be more inclined to pick up a message or to communicate in this way. PV - Where am I picking up the events other than the newsletter or through an email - is there an opportunity to have a school calendar on the website.

DP - Discussion around parental engagement through Gateway app - if this is the most used.

ACTION - look into this platform (Gateway) as a means of communication for parents.

3. MATTERS ARISING:

(i) Direction of the school - DP reminds PV and staff of the values based approach of the school, underpinned by the Trust co-operative values. PV - It is easier to work together on the values in a smaller school. Discussion around parental engagement - 1 parent at this forum. DP - pandemic has had an impact with parents feeling comfortable coming into a parent forum.

Parent engagement - PV - Any opportunities to run any polls for parents - give parents two options to answer a question. Giving parents something to think about and engaged with the school.

ACTION - DP to look into a platform to send out a poll to parents.

DP - the collaboration between school and home is key to the success of the school. It is the vision of the school to increase parental engagement so that we can work more co-operatively.

Numbers - there is huge opportunity for growth/ parental engagement in the future. 49 on roll (once up to 70).

(ii) Pre school Ofsted 2 weeks ago PV - challenged on Reading, picking up when the children were ready to read. Healthy eating in packed lunches was raised. Parent feedback on school transition for EYFS - parents really appreciated the enhanced transition that Exbourne put into place in the Summer term. This was highlighted with Ofsted - DP thanked PV for this. DP - Future events such as Nativity and sports day will be a bonus in getting parents into school again. PV - Pre-school website running well with a link to the FB page with a running blog. FAMLY program - communication tool with parents; like Tapestry; tablets for the staff to upload pupil learning. Discussion around learning journal vs online tool. FAMLY also does the registers and invoicing.

HW - this is the first year where there have not been conversations about keeping the pre-school open. EYFS this September 4 but this is set to rise.

PV - looking at 0-2 provision also - this may go to N Tawton Community Centre (Taw Tots); talking to the Methodist Church - taking the pews out to increase space and

put carpet and chairs in. Pre school are keen to build links with the school and do joint events.

DP - wrap around care - we want to encourage parent who utilise Stepping Stones and other nursery providers to have sessions at EXB pre school so that relationships are forged before starting school.

HW - We have lost pupils to Shebbear College in the past; the bus leaves from the end of the road. Having the pre-school built up and securing the links with the school will help increase our numbers.

PV - CIO status applied for, set up and ready - benefits are minimizing liability of the Trustees, tighter structure where parents have a termly voice.

Discussion around future plans for the pre-school and possibility of joining the Trust.

PV - this was raised before but the previous Head let it go, the opportunity was there.

DP - perhaps this is something that your committee can think about in the future.

22nd November - pre school parent evening. Question around when we report to parents - DP explains the 3 points across the academic year we will have a Parent Consultation in the Autumn and Spring terms and a written report in the Summer.

4. AOB

DP thanked staff and PV for attending.

Meeting closed at 4.30pm.

Next meeting TBC Spring Term 1