



# Parent Forum Meeting MINUTES

Meeting date | time  
17/02/2022 3.45pm

Meeting called by Deirdre Petersen  
Type of meeting Parent Forum  
Note taker Deirdre Petersen

## Attendees

DP (Principal)  
C Greenfield (AIM Group)  
NPearson/ SBalsdon (staff)  
LWinsbury (clergy/ community)  
JMacklin (parent)  
LLowe (parent)  
LChapman (parent)

Apologies: SBourne, SMills, TDavies, ASatterly

## 1. INTRODUCTION/ WELCOME – DP/ CG

Welcome to all and introductions. LW (clergy) and CG (AIM group) introduced; CG remotes in through TEAMS – information on free courses has been sent home to parents via email, newsletter, through course lists and DP distributes hard copies of AIM course list to those in attendance (also emailed to all parents). CG outlines the AIM Group and how funding works so that free courses are offered/ laptops for the school can be gained through government funding. Courses are wide-ranging – mental health, loss, trauma, ASC, challenging behaviour, getting started in business, end of life care etc. CG explains that info from school can sometimes be impersonal so he wants to introduce himself personally. Courses can be used as a parenting toolkit/ any level can access and courses can be completed in own time over 6 weeks. Access is digital and 24 hours per day.

LW – has 5 parishes – can we distribute the information further than the school community? CG – yes. LW to make contact with CG for more information on distributing the courses out to help people in the wider community.

CG explains that parents need to click on the link sent out by school to register interest in a course and then CG will be in touch.

## 2. ACTIONS FROM LAST PARENT FORUM (10.21)

2.1 Comms to parents – DP – how is this working? We have reinstated the text messaging service and are using FB to communicate as well as Gateway and email from admin. Parents in attendance deem this is working well. DP asks about recent parent surveys including Ofsted questions and on residential choices. Parents are unsure if they have completed.

**ACTION – DP to instruct admin to send out both parent surveys again.**

2.2 DP to look into sending more polls out to parents. This has been addressed – polls and surveys now part of practice eg. Parent survey on residential and question posed for this forum – How can we help our children to flourish? Parent view survey also sent out this term.

## 3. HOW CAN WE HELP OUR CHILDREN TO FLOURISH? - DP

DP reminds parents of the values based approaches in school – our Trust and school Christian values underpin what we do. DP reminds parents that we are working on respect, perseverance, thankfulness and other values so that we can send our children out into the world as better citizens.

LC – we want our children to be supported and to support others.

LW – we have a wonderful ethos at this school; at some point they will go to secondary and face a very different environment, non-spiritual. The messages from peers can be cruel, children are self-harming, older children are getting messages of materialism and are feeling meaningless. What is their world view? We want to impart this early to safeguard the mental health of our young people. We want the hopeful world view that children get at Exbourne to continue.

AW (apologies) – emailed agenda item relating to question posed. Could ppts and schemes of work be sent home to assist home learning? Parents get an overview of curriculum each term.

NP – often our best lessons have no powerpoint/ scheme of work. DP – we want to give parents more information but do not want to bombard them or add to workload of teachers by asking them to share lesson powerpoints/ SoW.

**ACTION – DP to look at class blog website area as the forum for teachers to place useful links and extra information on learning so that parents can engage more at home eg. Timetables practice, useful links to reading material.**

4. Apologies from TDavies – email sent in with a message of gratitude.

Please can I send my apologies for the parent forum, but please can I send my appreciation to the staff, especially Mr Waites, for the continued support I have received for Kelsey. It has been a challenging term for her and the care and support had not gone unnoticed. I have nothing but praise for the school - thank you . DP shares the message with the forum.

5. Apologies from SBourne with an item to add about clubs –

Can I give a suggestion on behalf of some parents at the school ?

Some mums are not using the after school clubs because your running them for certain classes and if you have children of different ages it means you have to come back after going home and it makes it costly and exhausting.

Why can't we go back to what it used to be

For example: Monday -tag rugby for all children/ Tuesday - art club for all children/ Friday - games club

For working parents it's really hard not having many after school clubs to suit all children and struggle to pick up their children. I believe if the after school clubs were regular and for all you would get more parents using it .

**ACTION – DP to talk to staff about their availability to open up the clubs to all. Staff voice to determine the clubs – often there needs to be a number limit. To discuss in staff meeting.**

SB – some clubs are easier to open to all eg. Art club but if we were running a tag rugby club, this may not be suitable for KS1/ EYFS.

LC – what about if parents volunteer? DP – yes, we are in need of parent volunteers again now that restrictions have eased somewhat. There is a DBS process that needs to be completed. Any parent who wants to volunteer either with running an afterschool provision or transporting pupils to out of school events can contact the office for a pack.

## **AOB**

JM – thanks NP for the books that MJM is now reading. Short discussion around finding the right sort of texts for reluctant readers and how this helps reading for pleasure.

JM – are we still testing daily for C-19? DP – there is no need to test daily unless a member of your household is positive. Staff in school continue to test daily as part of our risk assessment.

JM – can you add a second parent onto Gateway to receive messages? DP to instruct admin.

DP closes session with a positive note – today is Random Acts of Kindness Day and the children have been thinking about what they can do for others at home. You might find that they are being extra attentive and kind at home. Praise also given for the wonderful singing voices of the whole school and DP wants to share this with parents in an Easter service. **ACTION – LW and DP to fix diary dates for Easter service and visitor worship.**

DP thanks everyone for attending.

Meeting closed at 5.15pm