

LANGAFEL PARENT COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION: FRIDAY 19TH JANUARY 2018 AT 2PM IN ROOM 13

ATTENDEES:

SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES: Mrs Woodbine (HT) Mr Paul Harrison (Chair of Govs)

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES: Julie Howlett (Chair), Steph Fuller (KS1), Laura Granados (UKS2 and Note taking), Nicola Woodley(FS), Jade Hart (SLIC)

APOLOGIES:

AGENDA TOPICS

Welcome, Introductions and Review of Minutes

Julie opened the meeting and welcomed Jade Hart from SLIC and Paul Harrison (Chair of Governors). The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.

Communication Survey Update

Discussion:

Mrs Woodbine presented a couple of redrafts of the original survey that PC reps created last June.

The redrafts aims were to unpack some of the dense questions in the original to make the responses less ambiguous and to shorten the survey while not dilute the scope of it.

There was a discussion about the various methods of communication listed in the survey. Mrs Woodbine felt that social media such as Twitter and Facebook would not be easy to manage and that text messaging could prove to be too expensive for the school. The current method of email using Parent Mail works well with almost all parents having given the school an email address.

Outcomes:

Mrs Woodbine explained how the survey would hopefully go out to parents early in the week prior to the February half term break. It may be split up into two separate but related surveys, depending on the amount of text/questions that Survey Monkey permits in each survey. It would also be available in paper/hard copy format – to suit those parents whose preference is actual physical paperwork.

KS1 Dismissal Procedure and Car Park Safety

Discussion:

Marie raised the issue of child safety upon end-of-day collection at KS1. She outlined how the path is very congested with parents, it was hectic and hard to see the right parent/teacher/child and how the playground's (necessary) use as a car park jeopardises parent and child safety in different ways. Mrs Woodbine stated that staff had raised similar concerns and had been considering ideas for how to solve the issue.

This discussion led onto one with a wider scope around the congestion of the road alongside the playground and within the car park itself:

- The seemingly impossible task of getting Yellow Lines placed on the left-hand corner of Gorsewood Road as you exit the car park was discussed and PC, governors and school share the frustration with KCC Highways in this endeavour.

- The 'rules' of playground/car park use by parents of Langafel and Molly's Preschool, and the flaunting of sensible and appropriate behaviour by a few parents/drivers (which cause irritation in the least and accidents at worst), spoiling the facility for other parents e.g. entering and exiting where they please, parking on the left-hand corner of Gorsewood Road exiting onto the main road.

While PC and school share the frustration that a well-sized, sole-purpose car park is impossible (as it is in virtually all schools), there was acknowledgement all round that with some discussion, broader thinking and cooperation, the worst parts of the situation could be alleviated. It was suggested that a consultation with parents could be arranged, and a group of interested parents could help to form a 'working party' on the matter.

Mrs Woodbine mentioned that all behaviour in the car park/playground is captured on CCTV and can be scrutinised as required by school.

Outcomes:

Marie presented some ideas for solutions regarding the safe collection issue that Mrs Woodbine gratefully received, informing PC that some of the ideas can be discussed with staff and trialled to try and improve the situation upon collection. These were ideas such as: parents queueing in class lines to collect their child; classes being dismissed from different doors in order to disperse the congestion of parents on the playground paths; and various other suggestions.

Mrs Woodbine said that the lines/marked places in the playground/car park could be reviewed and possibly resprayed, where appropriate. Signage could be made to remind parents of the correct entrance and exit places. Children could design signs which might be able to be stapled onto the new bollards on the left-hand side of the exit from Gorsewood Road (with the neighbour's consent of

course), which might prick the conscience of inconsiderate parkers (or not!). The idea of a 'Working Party' was agreed as being one way forward which might engage a wider group of parents.

Drinking with Lunchtime Meal update

Discussion:

Mrs Woodbine described the few days of trialling that took place last week, mainly at KS1, with these combinations of methods:

Day 1: water poured for children and placed on their tray with their food, at the serving hatch;

Day 2: cups given to the children and Midday Meals Supervisors supporting the pouring of water from jugs on each table;

Day 3: children bringing their own water bottles into lunch

Particular issues were shown by the brief trial of each method. Younger children were not used to having water on their tray and so some were tipping the whole cup into the bin with their leftover food, and the jugs need to be not too full, otherwise it is too heavy for younger children to pour from. Trials have been limited so far to only KS1, as the kitchen do not have enough cups for all the children/time to wash between sittings.

PC suggested that school (FOLS PTA) could fund some more cups to enable this to work, but it was outlined how Principals Catering would not allow this (it would mean that school would have to wash their own cups, rather than Principals staff doing so). PC agreed this was a ridiculous situation.

Outcomes:

Mrs Woodbine assured PC that she was keen to ensure water is available with meals and she is continuing to push for cups from Principals (who, apparently, are finding it difficult to purchase the required cups currently). She promised that a properly structured trial would take place and the children **WOULD** receive water with their meals as a given, one way or another, shortly; Mrs Woodbine assured PC that some progress would be made and water (in one form or another) would be being consumed **WITH** the lunchtime meal by the time of the next PC meeting.

Reading Recognition and Rewards

Discussion:

Julie asked if the new reading rewards at KS1 and KS2, which were outlined in an email from Mrs Palmer in November 2017, were active this term, as there seems to have been a delay to starting this initiative as nothing was mentioned or received at the end of Term 2.

Outcomes:

Mrs Woodbine explained that all stickers and awards had now been purchased and were ready to go at the end of this term.

Communication of Minutes and General PC communication with parent body**Discussion:**

Julie asked if the minutes of the PC meetings could be placed on the school website as was the original intention, so that all interested parents could read them. Julie also stated that she was happy to produce a summary/digest of discussions and outcomes for parents each term, a week or two after each meeting and asked how this could best be distributed to the wider parent body.

Outcomes:

Mrs Woodbine said that there are just a few staff trained in website uploading, so this is sometimes a time issue, but it was possible and will happen. Mrs Woodbine said she would be happy to send the summary/digest document out via Home Connect, possibly with a Weekly, and also to upload a PDF version/link to the summary/digest on the Website.

Any Other Business:**Behaviour Policy communication to parents**

Mrs Woodbine shared the behaviour policy information she is intending to send out to all parents, which is a summary of the reviewed Behaviour Policy which has now been ratified by the governing body. It summarises the main points and changes, with references to the pages in the full policy document on the school's website, where there is much more detail. A couple of minor amendments were suggested from the brief look that PC got in the meeting.

Swimming Pool – seeking lottery/sports funding

Nicola raised the issue of the Swimming pool roof and described her awareness of another local school which had received sports and lottery funding to improve their pool building. Nicola said that she and Laura M. would be happy to look into this further and take the project forward to help get a grant/funding for a new roof. This idea was received very positively by PC, Mrs Woodbine and the Paul Harrison (Chair of Governors).

Finding out more about child's progress/how to help

Nicola also mentioned that she had found the Parent consultation evening very helpful and wanted to know when and how parents would be able to get information from their child's teacher on how best

to support their child going forward in the year. Mrs Woodbine advised that parents are free to ask for advice from teachers at any time during the year and they can make an appointment with the class teacher on an ad-hoc basis as and when required. Mrs Woodbine stated that she saw little point in offering another class set of Parent Consultations if there was not the actual need or demand for them.

The meeting closed at 3.15pm. The next meeting will take place on Friday 2nd March at 2pm.