

Parent Council Meeting, Thursday 30th April 2015, 2pm

Attendees:

Tracy Potter (Executive Headteacher)

Julie Garrett

Rachel Anderson

Dawn Dexter - Hall

Emma Hammacott

Emma Kensall

Anita Parham

Apologies

None received

Agenda.

Minutes of previous meeting

Staffing update

AOB

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed

Nothing to add

Staffing update

TP noted that last week two days of interviews had taken place in order to employ some new teachers for September - after a rigorous process three teachers have been employed across the Federation, two for Bedenham.

TP outlined staffing plans for 2015/16 but noted that these are subject to change as resignations don't have to be in for some time yet.

Privacy for changing

DDH asked whether children had the opportunity to change in privacy. It was noted that there is no facility within the school for separate changing although as the children get older this is normally facilitated by boys changing in one space and girls in another. This gender separation occurs from Year 5 upwards as standard but younger pupils or their parents can request this.

There was some discussion regarding the possibility of parents, or similar, being able to see through the classroom windows when children are changing. TP noted she will ask staff to ensure the classroom curtains are always closed. There was particular concern regarding Year R who change early in the morning as that is when their PE slot is and the fact that parents are sometimes in the classroom

Action: TP to investigate getting film for windows that have no curtains and to remind staff of the need to ensure appropriate privacy.

Rewards systems

There was further discussion regarding the role of merits and similar. TP noted it is extremely difficult to find a system that is seen as completely fair and that what is 'merit-worthy' for one child may not be the same for all children.

Action: TP agreed to discuss further with staff and to ensure parents and pupils are clear - perhaps refreshing the system for the new school year.

Lennox Centre

There was discussion around a specific incident that occurred in school and the consequences for one particular child which led to some discussion regarding the role of the Lennox Centre. It was noted that in order to gain a place at Lennox behaviours / attitudes need to be CONSISTENTLY poor. The particular incident was thoroughly investigated by the Head of School who ensured the consequences were appropriate even if publicly these were not all seen!

DBS checks

A parent asked if volunteers are CRB / DBS checked. TP noted that regular volunteers should be checked but volunteers for trips may not necessarily be. Until checks are completed staff are aware that volunteers should not be alone with pupils. Two of the parents volunteer fairly regularly and have not been checked.

Action: TP to liaise with SP (office) to organise checks

Holiday homework

Parents asked whether it was possible for half term and other holiday homework to be issued a week in advance of the holiday so that if they had specific plans for the holiday period it could be completed before the break - this was considered to be particularly important when no term time holidays can be taken!

Next meeting: Monday 29th June, 2pm.