

Parent Voice
Monday 22nd February 2016
The Barn Cedar Studio

1. Welcome and introductions

Mr McIntosh (Deputy Head Teacher) welcomed parents and, for those who had not attended a Parent Voice meeting before, outlined the purpose and procedure of the meeting.

2. Minutes of the last meeting and action points

• **School dinners**

- Mr McIntosh would send out the questionnaire regarding school dinners in due course.

• **Evening meetings**

- This had been noted by the school leadership team and attention would be paid to varying evening meeting days in future.

• **Fire alarm bells**

- Mr McIntosh had gone to each demountable during a break time to hear the bells. He could confirm his earlier assertion that the bells could be heard, though they were not as loud as in a main building classroom. A parent asked if the fire alarms were tested each week. Mr McIntosh was not aware if they were as this could happen on a regular basis when staff are not in the building; Mr Bardram, the caretaker, lived on site and Mr McIntosh assumed he may test them outside of school hours. However, Mr McIntosh would find out about this.

3. AOB

• **Decisions regarding notifying parents**

A question was raised regarding notifying parents about a recent potential concern over strangers approaching a child outside Boswells Secondary School. Mr McIntosh explained the details of the situation, revealing non-confidential background information that parents were not likely to have known, and the subsequent reasons for not notifying parents on this occasion. He was aware that a lot of incorrect information had been circulated and discussed which, of course, put the school in a dim light. What had compounded that issue was that the Infant School had sent out information to its parents, many of whom are also Junior School parents. While the school stood by its decision, it would, in future, seek to ensure both schools react to situations like this in the same way so as not to cause parents to think that there is any difference in the way in which we care about pupil safety and well-being.

- **Letter reply slips**

A parent asked if care could be taken on double-sided letters containing reply slips so that information does not have to be cut off the letter in order to return the slip. Mr McIntosh would circulate this request to staff.

- **Parking/driving situation**

A parent asked if follow up action was being taken in light of the incident that occurred in the turning circle after school recently. As mentioned in a newsletter following that incident, both the Infant and Junior schools had been in touch with the relevant department from the city council and would be working with them to try and resolve the traffic difficulties around the school at the start and end of the school day. Discussion took place about various possible actions that could be tried, including reminders on newsletters and assemblies for children regarding the green cross code.

- **Year 2-3 transition**

A parent asked if information regarding Year 2-3 transition could be issued earlier, possibly before Easter. Mr McIntosh explained the usual series of transition arrangements that take place in the summer term and said that there would be no change to this timescale. This was deemed to be an appropriate window of time in which to prepare children and share information with parents. Mr McIntosh noted that he would be requesting feedback from current Year 3 parents via a questionnaire regarding their transition experience last year in order to improve the arrangements and information shared this year.

- **Year 6 Easter Booster School**

A parent asked if more information would be issued regarding this to those who had signed up for it. Mr McIntosh said that this would indeed happen later in the term once further arrangements had been put in place.

Some questions were asked and discussion took place about a specific class, which Mr McIntosh addressed during and after the meeting.

4. Date and time of next meeting

Thursday 24th March at 2.15pm (tea/coffee from 2pm) in the Barn.