



PARENT FORUM MEETING

MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8TH OCTOBER 2014 AT 19.00 IN THE LECTURE THEATRE

PRIORY GOVERNORS PRESENT: JOHN GRIFFITHS (JG), PAULINE QUINTON (PQ), AUDREY WHYTE (AW)

APOLOGIES: HAYLEY OLCAI, SARAH HINKS, RADHA STUART

HEADTEACHER: TONY SMITH (TS)

PARENTS: 17

ALSO PRESENT: Emma Brinkhurst (Clerk)

Pauline Quinton welcomed parents and introductions were made.

Year 7s

TS gave an overview of how the Year 7 students have settled into the school. They have had an excellent start. They are one of the best Year 7 groups the school has had with few issues. They are well behaved and have achieved a lot of house points. Some parents wanted to know if the Year 7 students are still leaving five minutes early. It was confirmed this was just for the first three weeks.

Social Media/E Safety

Some parents are concerned about their child's use of Social Media and E Safety. Some parents wanted to know how often E Safety was taught to students. E Safety is mentioned right through a student's time at Priory including in Life Skills lessons (once per year), E Safety week (Feb/Mar), student groups and assemblies. TS mentioned it is difficult to name all the various social media sites to students as the most popular ones change so quickly. The E Safety Group run by Nick Hockin was mentioned to parents who have an interest in e safety this group includes parents, students and teachers. Nick would welcome any new members.

Mobile phones

Parents asked what the school's policy on mobile phone use is it was advised these should be turned off during the school day.

School bells

Parents wanted to know how it was going with the school not having bells anymore. TS said at first some students and staff were resistant to not having bells. It has helped fewer corridor crushes and the teachers have freedom to release students from lessons when they have finished what they are teaching. This will be monitored for a year.



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Lunch breaks

Some parents mentioned that their children felt that the lunch break was not long enough for them to eat, use the toilet and play. Some children had said they spent a lot of their lunch break queuing for food in the canteen. It was agreed that depending on what is on the menu the queue can be long especially on certain days when the menu choices are popular.

Q How long is break and lunch for the students?

Break is 20 minutes and lunch is 35 minutes. The school has three lunch breaks due to the number of students the school has and due to the size of the canteen. The Year 7s have a separate lunch break.

Q Do the students have time to play – do they go outside?

Yes lots of the students are outside on the field playing i.e. football.

Q Can students take food outside with them from the canteen?

Students can't take plates outside of the canteen but they can take pizza and sandwiches with them.

Q If it rains where can the students go on their lunch break?

They can use the shelters outside, library, and canteen.

Start of day – registration before Period 1

Parents wanted to know how the ten minute change to the start of the day has been going. TS advised this has been working very well - important notices are able to be given out to students at the start of the day. This is also helping period one lessons to start on time as previously equipment/uniform checks were having to be done at the start of period one. Parents thought this was an excellent policy change.

Leisure Centre

Parents asked if the students can use the leisure centre in school time. Students use the leisure centre in P.E lessons and after school.

Uniform/formal Shoes

There was much discussion about the uniform policy including the policy on formal style school shoes. Parents were unhappy about this as they had already brought new shoes for their children in the summer holiday. Parents feel this is giving their children the wrong message about the value of money. Parents are also unhappy their children are being given negative behaviour logs for wearing the school shoes their parents have brought them. A letter had been sent to all parents requesting that all students are in the correct footwear for 3rd November. Parents would



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like this policy looked into including staff consistency of following the policy. The second hand uniform was also mentioned to parents.

Ankle boots/boots

Some parents were worried about when it is wet or if we have snow that the students are not allowed to wear ankle boots in school. Some parents wanted this part of the policy to be reviewed.

Affordability of trips for low income families

It was advised that a list of historic trips and a rough indication of cost will be put on the school website to help low income families with which trips are likely to be run for each year group. It was mentioned that some support is available to low income families including £50 towards each trip this information is on the school website.

Lateness

There was concern by some parents that sometimes students are late due to genuine reasons like the bus is late which they have no control over. TS explained that the students are always asked why they are late and genuine reasons will be accepted. Persistent lateness is classed as twice in one week and would be followed up by a sanction by the school.

Communication

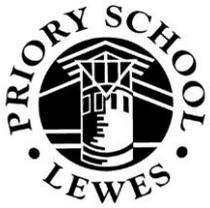
Parents wanted the school to review the letters they send to parents as they find sometimes the words chosen are harsh and could be written in a more friendly way. TS explained that some letters used are computer generated and that the school is looking into this. TS would welcome parents letting the school know of any specific letters that are felt to be harsh so these can be reviewed.

Rules

There were discussions about the anxiety caused to Year 7 students in particular with the implementation of school rules. TS said the school would like to change from a school of rules to a school of values. Students have come up with these values. These are already in the school planners and are starting to be put on posters around the school.

Show My Homework

Parents thought the Show My Homework was invaluable to them in finding out what their children are doing at school.



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Emails from staff

Parents were very pleased with the speed that staff respond to any emails they send into them.

Negative behaviour points

Parents wanted to know if there is a way to get negative behaviour points revoked if parents do not agree with the reason they have been issued. TS said if parents feel there is an injustice they could send an email to the relevant member of staff to discuss.

Q Do students know when they receive house points?

Yes, they should know at the time of getting the house points and parents are sent an email as well.

Parent Voice Group

PQ mentioned the parent voice group who are a group of volunteer parents/carers who are supported by a teacher representative. Parent Voice Group are always looking for more parents to join them. At the moment they are working on getting the school website more user friendly.

Parent Governor

There will shortly be an election for a Parent Governor if any parent is interested in this role they are welcome to speak to PQ or any other Governors it was mentioned that details of Governors are on the school website.

PQ thanked parents for coming and for their contributions and hoped to see them at a future Parents Forum meeting.

The meeting closed at 20:30

Next meeting: Wed 21st January 2015 19:00