

Parent's Voice Meeting Minutes  
Meeting held at Rushden Primary Academy in the Community Room  
Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2018 @ 2pm

Present: Debs Francis (Family Support Worker), Liza Davies (Principal), Zoe Leonard (Chair of Academy Council), Laura How, Lydia Shuttle, Maria Trilk, Emma Holden, Lucy Ganna-Knight and Hansa Keshwala.

2 suggestion slips had been put forward from the box for this month's meeting, 1 from a Reception parent and 1 from a Year 4 parent.

The meeting was opened by Debs who read out the 1<sup>st</sup> Reception slip – regarding the NSPCC Pants Campaign and it was suggested this would be a good topic to introduce to the children in Reception.

Debs confirmed to the group that she had already downloaded the NSPCC pant campaign information for the children to cover in school. Members of the group thought that it would be a good idea for the same information to be sent to the parents of the children covering the topic to keep them informed around the same time.

Miss Davies also confirmed that this topic was covered across the whole of the Academy each week along with e-safety, values and keeping ourselves safe.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Slip came from a Year 4 parent expressing concerns regarding progress in Year 4 due to all the staff changes i.e. the children's reading not being accessed regularly and the lack of weekly spelling and other homework.

Miss Davies confirmed that Year 4 have seen some disruption since the departure of Miss Bacro. However she feels that the children have been more settled since the new long term supply teacher has joined the class along with the appointment of a permanent TA, which should bring some much needed stability to the class.

Miss Davis reassured the group that the children's work has not suffered due to this disruption, but did feel that the pastoral care has gone down.

It is the hope that the Academy will be able to recruit a full time Year 4 teacher as soon as possible and that the supply teacher will be able to stay until then. Future finances allowing, ideally there will be a Year 5 class next year which would then become the Year 6 class. Also, ideally the Academy will be able to move current Year 3 into Year 4 and not have any split year classes any more.

Year 4 are now moving forward with the introduction of regularly homework and spellings going home, starting from the end of last week, and they can also start to focus more on the children's reading.

Zoe already does reading with a small number of children within school and suggested it would be a good idea to start adding children from Dolphins class to the reading groups to bring them back up to speed. Miss Davies agreed that this would be a good idea. Linda and Lydia offered to help with reading groups. Hansa who has helped out in the past said she would be more than happy to restart to help out with any extra numbers. Miss Davies agreed that afternoon would be better for the children due to the set timetable in the morning.

Lucy has had a question from some parents regarding the Academy's policy on the age at which children can be dropped off and walk into school alone?

Miss Davies confirmed to the group that the Academy allow this from Year 5 onwards and this would also need to be confirmed in writing by the parent or guardian of the child.

Lucy has also had quite a few parents express concerns regarding the "Drop off Zone" situated at the side of the Academy carpark next to the building. This area is not being used as it should be at the moment. It has been noted that vehicles are parking here even though there may be space in the carpark to save time when dropping and picking children up.

The group all agreed that some vehicles come in and out of the carpark at high speed, unaware of pedestrians crossing the entrance and exits, and are very concerned that this could possibly cause an accident in the future.

Debs and Miss Davies confirmed that they are aware of the regularly offending motorists and have repeatedly and politely reminded them of safe driving and parking in and around the Academy.

Zoe suggested a warning system whereby you give the offending vehicle/motorists a sticker/ warning/strike if they are not abiding by the rules and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> strike they are no longer able to use the carpark.

Lydia suggested having car park monitors, advising and assisting the motorists within the car park. Miss Davis confirmed she would be happy to have volunteer traffic monitors.

It was agreed that maybe if the children got involved and the Academy ran a Slow Down poster campaign/competition for the children it may help to slow the cars down and bring it to everyone's attention. Debs agreed and thought that this would be a good idea. There would be prizes for the winner/s and the winning posters/signs could be either displayed around the carpark or made into proper signage. Debs agreed to get a letter sorted to be sent home.

2.45pm Miss Davies left to attend assembly.

The group then carried on discussing ways to try and ease drop off and pick up, such as a walking bus and car share. A slow-down flashing sign was discussed and the group felt that this was a good idea, but due to the cost thought that the funds would be better spent within the school for the children.

2.50pm Debs was called away from the meeting.

It was then agreed that at the next meeting we would discuss after school clubs, trips and a residential trip (PGL), along with any other suggestions from the box.

Next meeting to be on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018 @ 2pm in the Community Room.

Minutes taken by Maria Trilk