



Parents Forum 13th March 2017

1. Uniform

- Rather than having grey, navy or black, parents preferred to have one colour: grey trousers/skirt, navy sweatshirt and blue checked summer dress.
- Have a strict policy - if children wear the wrong uniform, a letter is to be sent home giving a set number of days for this to be rectified.
- Have a uniform swap system in place for uniforms which are still in good condition but too small.
- New policy to be sent home soon, to help parents / carers prepare for the new school year; with a view to it being implemented from September.
- Parents felt children had been 'getting away' with not wearing correct/different uniform for too long.
- Reading bags to be the same colour for all children.
- Children should adhere to the rules around uniform as this is what will also be required at high school.
- Children are representing the school: they should look smart and all wear the same uniform.
- Uniform list to be set home.

PE Kit

- Would prefer to have full PE Kit uniform or black short, white t- shirt, black pumps. Track suit for outdoor PE. This would make children look good and feel smart.
- A sports club kit was suggested for children in sports teams.
- Clothing needed for 'Forest School/Military Academy' should be included on the uniform list to inform parents that outdoor wear is needed for certain activities.
- Send letter home to parent / carer if children do not have P.E kit - school to have spares available for use on the day.

Shoes

- Should be black.
- Some parents wanted no trainers at all to get them prepared for high school, where they are not allowed. This gets the children in the correct mind set.
- Other parents did not mind trainers (as long as they are black) due to the cost of providing school shoes and a separate pair for home.

Accessories

- Hair to be tied up - more hygienic and reduces the risk of headlice.
- No bows - more a fashion accessory than being suitable for school - becoming so big and the younger children look up to the older children.
- Jewellery should be limited to a watch and simple stud earrings if applicable.
- Mobile phones are to be left at the reception desk. Children should be made fully aware of this and keep to it.

2. Extra-curricular clubs/trips

- It was mentioned that children would like more opportunity for music clubs outside of the paid musical instrument lessons.
- Provide an opportunity for parent and child clubs where the parents have the opportunity to also develop a skill with their child.
- More sports clubs requested for KS1 now that the Friday club with an external agency has finished.
- More academic clubs across the school.
- Dance for all ability of children and not just an exclusive club for gifted and talented dancers. People are associating an unfair link between the opportunities for school productions and the children who attend the gifted and talented clubs.
- They suggested after-school clubs for different subjects, rather than PE / Sport-based
- Parents did not object to the idea of paying for skills based clubs delivered by external companies.
- It was promised that each child would be given the opportunity for extra-curricular activity each term. In order to keep to this claim, we need a rotation of attendance, giving priority to those who are currently on the waiting list. Should the children on the waiting list return their slip by a certain date, they have priority of places.
- After speaking about a reasonable amount of absences before being removed from the register, it was suggested that 2 would be a reasonable number. This allows for those on the waiting list wanting to, to have the chance of attending.
- There needs to be a clear procedure for informing the member of staff if the child is not able to attend the club that evening for whatever reason.

What is reasonable to ask for trips/residential trips?

- Giving consideration to time, it was suggested that an appropriate timescale be chosen depending on the age of the child e.g. 1 night for Year 2, 2 nights for Year 4 and 3 nights for Year 6.
- No cost was suggested for a trip/residential trip, however, it was suggested that more notice to be given and a routine established so that parents know well in advance of the trips arranged for each Year group

Other comments

- Parents asked whether there would be opportunity to raise funds for school to purchase our own minibus. This is with the view to reducing costs over the long-term for trips out of school.

3. Attendance

Does lining up work?

- Yes - children are keen to be on time to line up.
- Could the year 1 children line up too?
- Yes, but would like the children to go into class quicker and not be hanging around lined up while parents chat to the teacher.

How can we tackle lates? What are the issues?

- Continue to enforce this rule and reward for 100%

Holiday permission forms

- Should only be granted in exceptional circumstances
- What are exceptional circumstances?
- What is the fine?
- Parents felt that some would rather go in term time and pay the fine

4. School Dinners

- Value for money- Parents were all happy with the school dinner value, they said that compared to other schools in the area it is cheap/reasonable
- All parents wanted to view the menu - they suggested it be posted on the school website and on the back of the weekly newsletter
- Parents said that their children enjoyed school meals
- Some parents questioned if lunches were filling enough as their children were coming home hungry - is this because they weren't eating enough or because they weren't filling? Parents were unsure
- Parents all agreed that a small sweet snack was acceptable for packed lunches, but not excessive amounts as this may cause some behavioural issues
- All parents agreed that it is acceptable for children to continue bringing in snack -what makes for a healthy snack needs to be defined.

5. Homework

- Parents felt that Homework Club was working well
- Checking reading books & planners. Prompting KS2 chn to change their books, rather than the keen readers always changing theirs.
- Variety of homework → more cross curricular / practical project?
- Clear guidance for completing homework → include worked examples / WAGOLL.
- Could we organise homework clubs / workshops for parents? E.g maths calculations - half term in advance so parents are more prepared in supporting their children at home.

6. Other comments/ suggestions made by parents and carers attending the Forum:

- An opportunity for parents / carers to meet the Governors and hear first-hand on the future plans for the school. Parents/ carers to be kept informed of changes as a result of being part of the Heath MAT. The MAT board to be more accountable and open with parents/ carers.
- More Forums - opportunities to review the schools progress and give feedback.
- Costumes should be made rather than bought eg. World Book Day.
- Get older children high school ready - eg. No trainers allowed at high school.
- Parents not to communicate with teachers in the playground.
- Distance to the reception class is too far.
- School rules should be followed no matter what.