

Davies Lane Parent Council Meeting 12th October 2017

Present:	Saima Khan, Ayesha Shafqat, Thula Mangena, Josie Hunt, Charlotte Beulah, Jane Jin, Nardjess Bououdine, Kalina Boeu, Jack Fortescue, Kate Chester, Amanda Barker, Veselin Nikolov, Nabila Lebdjiri, Wilford Roberts, Helen Westerby, Jack Tremewen, , Sham Hayat, Samim Patel, Sabina Kosek, Kate Roberts, Eleanor Ireland, Fiona Sinclair, Jenni Walsh, Bronwen Chalmers, Rebecca Corderoy
Apologies:	Victoria Holdbrook, June Alle, Luke Selby, Annette Loakes, Sarah Cottrill, Sarah Falola
Next Meeting	7 th December 2017
1.	<p>Membership</p> <p><i>New Members</i> New members were welcomed and the group introduced themselves to each other</p> <p><i>Review of Vacancies</i> Vacancies still exist for Y1 Rowan and Y5 Cypress</p> <p><i>Election of New Chair</i> Jack Fortescue stepped down as Chair and in the absence of any other nominees Amanda Barker and Charlotte Beulah were nominated to share the Chair role rather than the usual Chair and Vice Chair set up. The group as a whole were pleased to accept this arrangement. Jack was thanked for his time as Chair which was much appreciated by all.</p> <p><i>Term of Membership</i> Bronwen confirmed that in terms of membership your cycle is up when the class you represent has left the school. One PC member felt that it might be better for the PC if other parents were offered the chance to take over classes. It was agreed that this would be for each individual representative to decide but where possible stepping down should be done at the end of a year so proper recruitment can take place. It was also pointed out that recruitment, particularly further up the school, is not so easy, so reps stepping down may actually end up leaving their class unrepresented.</p>
2.	<p>Terms of Reference</p> <p>Bronwen took all members through the terms of reference.</p> <p><i>Role of PC</i> The DL Parent Council is a forum solely looking at the teaching and learning of the children and is about raising standards. The main agenda is normally driven by the school priorities. Other business that is learning related can be discussed in any other business (AOB).</p> <p><i>Apologies</i> All members are required to attend one meeting every half term. If members cannot make a meeting then they should send apologies to the parent council email address davieslaneparentcouncil@gmail.com. The PC operates a three strikes and you're out policy on meeting attendance as that place could then be offered to another parent who is interested in supporting the school.</p>

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	<p><i>What happens at a meeting</i></p> <p>A usual meeting will involve a presentation from the Learning Council which is a student led body looking at the same school priorities as the PC. This will be followed by looking into a main topic. Usually, this takes the form of some information being given by the school followed by the PC splitting into three groups do look at data, books and do classroom observations. Questions, comments and suggestions for improvement happen part of the feedback process.</p> <p><i>How should the PC Communicate with other parents?</i></p> <p>Some PC members wanted clarification how PC members should interact in terms of communication with other parents. The school stressed that the PC forum is more about getting a parent view on what the school does and not so much about a voice going out.</p> <p>Parents however, felt that it was a privilege to have access to information and that they wanted to make sure other parents had an insight into what was discussed. Lots of ideas were put forward and it was agreed in the meeting that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes would be drawn up earlier • A summary of the meeting would be put out in the school newsletter straight after every meet • Full minutes would be put on the website • The PC and School would look into a PC member perhaps feeding back at a coffee morning
3.	<p>July Minutes Sign Off The minutes were signed off without amendment</p>
4.	<p>Review of Actions from Last Meeting</p> <p><i>Actions Completed</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact - The school have publicised how to contact other members of staff via the school office email and details of this were included in the school prospectus. The website will be updated with details and the school will make sure it goes out in the school newsletter. • New Members - the school sent out letters inviting applications of interest • Interviews - were carried out by members of the PC in advance of the first meeting <p><i>Actions Ongoing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absences – the school are trying to improve the coding of absences to support focus on attendance • Website - the calendar is now up to date, but parents pointed out that homework was still not appearing on the website and that the old website could still be

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	<p>accessed via some mediums. The school said that the homework was being addressed and they would investigate access to the old website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Translators - ongoing work to get a bank of translators on tap. The school feel that they are well covered at the moment but would still like people who are willing to translate to come forward. A parent suggested that the previously run ESOL conversation group for parents was very useful. The school said that this was run through the now defunct children’s centre but that they would look into the feasibility of running one through the school. <p>Actions still to be addressed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Useful info Sheet – to be given to new parents
5.	<p>School Led Topic – End of Year Data</p> <p>In view of it being the first meeting of the year the school led topic was done jointly instead of the PC breaking into smaller groups.</p> <p>The school first took the PC through Summary Headline Data for the end of 2016/17 year.</p> <p>General Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The percentage of pupil premium children on roll each year is dropping which will have a knock on effect on school funding. ● 10% of children in the school have an EHC plan which is higher than average. This is because the school have a specialist autistic unit. ● Just under half the pupils at the school do not speak English as a first language ● Attendance, which was a major focus area last year, ended up at 95.2% which is slightly below the average. However this figure is without religious holidays taken out so will probably rise to around national average when they are taken into account. <p>EYFS (Nursery and Reception)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 88% of Early Years children met expected standards last year which is well above national and borough average. <p>KS1 (Y1-2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Y1 statutory phonics test results were up 4% on last year to 91% which is much higher than national and Waltham Forest (WF) average. Any improvements you can make in Y2 then become very individual child specific. ● In end of KS1 results the school has very strong performance. Going forward the main area of focus will be in the combined (RWM) score so the school will be looking at children who are not performing at the same level across all three subjects, though at 76%, the school is already doing better than national and WF

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average. There is a good percentage of children working at greater depth at KS1.

KS2 (Y3-6)

- End of KS2 results were also strong. The previous year's focus had been on reading and though this was up on last year the school would prefer it to be higher still. Maths, though still above national and borough averages was disappointing as results were down on last year. The reading age of the applied Maths SAT paper was found to be age 14 so the school have now replaced guided maths with shared maths sessions where there is focus on how to decode what is actually being asked. The school will be monitoring to see improvement in Y6 via half termly mock exams.
- Progress (taken between end of KS1 and end of KS2) was disappointing and below Waltham Forest average. This was reflected in the disappointing % of students working at greater depth at the end of KS2, though the % working at greater depth over combined subjects was up from 4% to 7% this year.

Focus areas for this year:

In light of the above, the school will be focussing on pushing more able children to greater depth, including making sure that the strong performance of children at the end of KS1 is converted into results at the end of KS2.

6.

School Learning Walk - Observations

For new parents this was the first chance to observe the whole school in action.

- Shared reading was observed with children being asked in depth questions to show their understanding and also being asked to comment on the previous thoughts and answers of other children meaning that they can't switch off when not being directly involved. The school explained how they are using novel studies now to make sure children are immersed in complicated language from very early on so they are not suddenly being introduced to it in Y6.
- In Y2 the standard of handwriting was commented on and the progress in handwriting viewed in reception books in just 6 weeks was astonishing.
- In Reception, teaching was very action based with lots of movement and visual aids being used to teach the same objective.
- The new simplified targets were viewed in books and for almost all had been updated regularly.
- Parents commented on how unfazed both children and teachers were by having adults swarm into their classroom. All children appeared really keen to explain what they were doing when asked.
- Children appeared engaged and involved in all classrooms visited

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7.	<p>AOB/Other subjects discussed</p> <p>The PC were asked where possible to submit AOB beforehand for future meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mock SATs taken by lower years - parents were concerned that this was causing children stress and discouragement when they were not scoring highly. They understand the need to baseline but thought that they school needed to do more to explain to the children that they were not expected to score highly as they had not been taught the whole curriculum yet. The school said they would take the point on board. • Online Encyclopaedia Britannica – parents that had investigated it were very impressed with this new online resource. • Bug Club – parents reported that it was not being updated. • Music Lessons – Parents felt that communication around these needed to be better. • Sports – parents felt that if DL were fielding sports teams in competitions then they should have team Kit. The school confirmed that kit was on order and had been paid for by FoDL funding. • Homework – some parents were not happy that homework was coming back with only a tick. The school explained that this is official school policy in trying to reduce teacher workload. Homework marking should be ‘light touch’ and will only be corrected if obviously wrong. Children shouldn’t receive stickers or rewards for homework as it is the minimum expectation. • Discipline – parents once again questioned how appropriate missing breaks was a method of discipline. They felt that particularly for boys it could lead to worse and not better behaviour. The school said they would consider this. • School survey link – parents reported that the link sent out had been incorrect so parents were unable to access it. The school will look to send it out again.
8.	<p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of meeting to go on newsletter (Kate Roberts) • Minutes to be produced earlier...(Fiona Sinclair) • School to put full PC minutes on the website (School) • Explore idea of a PC member feeding back to a coffee morning group (School/PC) • School to investigate feasibility of running another parent ESOL group • School to make sure homework is on the website • School to make sure the old website is no longer accessible • School to correct school survey link and resend to parents • School to put staff contact method on website contact page and in newsletter • School to give out useful information sheet to new parents • School to update Bug Club

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School to make sure that the school sports team have proper kit• School to communicate better with kids when they are asked to take SATs that they might not have studied the curriculum for yet.• School to try to improve communications around music and music lessons• School to consider the use of alternative sanctions that don't involve kids being inactive/being kept in for breaks• PC members to put forward topics for AOB in advance where possible going forward |
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