

Head Teacher

Mr Andrew Russell

E-mail: admin@northduffield.n-yorks.sch.uk

Website: www.northduffield.n-yorks.sch.uk



GOVERNING BODY

Maintained by North Yorkshire County Council

Broadmanor,
North Duffield,
Selby,
North Yorkshire
YO8 5RZ

Telephone:

01757 288487



North Yorkshire



School/Parent Forum Minutes Thursday 8 June 2017

Present: Mrs Broome - Chair of Governors, Mrs Fildes - PSHE lead, Mrs Corrigan, Mrs Harrison, Mr Taylor, Mrs Clarke

Apologies: Mrs Clewley

1. **Introductions** were made by each person present.
2. **Purpose/Terms of Reference** were distributed, read and agreed by all.
3. **Election of clerk/chair** Mrs Broome was elected as chair/clerk of the forum for the coming year.
4. **Curriculum matters** Mrs Fildes distributed a copy of the PSHE curriculum to explain the new rules regarding SRE. PSHE is naturally taught in class with normal teaching, eg rules, charters, bullying etc. From Sept '17 Sexual Relationship Education is a mandatory part of the PSHE curriculum. This is to be taught from reception upwards and will teach all forms of SRE including the correct names of all body parts including genitalia, same sex relationships and transgender. The teaching will be sensitive to the class maturity level. Parents can opt their child/ren out of certain areas of the subject if they feel uncomfortable with their child/ren learning this.

Q Will a letter be sent out when very sensitive subjects are taught?

A Where possible but the class teacher will also discuss this with parents at Parent Consultations and Intake meetings.

Q How will the subject be brought in next year? Will it be back tracked for older classes?

A Each class will be taught all aspects up to their level of maturity. They will not just jump in at the stage the class should be taught, ie Y5 will not jump in at puberty etc.

Consensus of discussion Some parents may be wary and want to be informed before sensitive subjects are taught, school should

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Mrs S Broome

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Mr J Spindler

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Mrs G Volans

**LOCAL
AUTHORITY**
Vacancy

PARENT
Mr M Holroyd
Mr R McCart
Mrs J McKeating
Vacancy

STAFF
Mrs M Mounfield

take this into consideration and communicate well with parents.

Be open and honest with the pupils, respond to questions correctly and not just politically. Plan the delivery properly and keep parents informed so they are not surprised if their child/ren talk about the subject at home.

Make it clear to parents what the government requirements are. Explain to parents that if this is not delivered it could also affect the schools Ofsted rating.

5. **Social Media** Mrs Broome was asked by the governor in charge of looking into social media to discuss this at the forum, specifically about the use of Twitter in school. The discussion was based around privacy, safety and why not also use Facebook/other forms of social media. What does the use of Twitter add to school communication? Will the use detract from other forms of communication?

Consensus of discussion School should decide for what purpose Twitter should be used. Good examples are to inform/update/remind parents on upcoming events and communications. Parents who use twitter will welcome it but others may not.

Ensure that only people who are involved with the school, ie current staff, current parents, current governors can have access.

Do not post photos of the pupils as people who access on mobiles can download and keep them or post them themselves (this was also said about photos on the website and should be looked into).

If it is to be used then it should be used consistently.

6. **School communication** Mrs Broome asked the parents if school communication had got better or worse in the past year?

Consensus of discussion Communication in school has gotten a lot better, however there are still niggles. EG sometimes parents do not get a lot of notice for clubs etc. Mrs Fildes explained that on these occasions school may not have got the notice themselves and it is a choice whether parents would like the activities to still be offered or not. The forum said they should still be offered.

Some parents are getting more than one email about the same thing but then nothing for other things. Mrs Broome suggested that parents check their spam as she had a problem at one time as all the emails from admin went into a separate spam box on her emails.

Grammar and spelling should be rigorously checked as a lot of letters go out to parents with mistakes on them.

7. **Parent questionnaire** Mrs Broome distributed a copy of the whole school parent questionnaire analysis along with anonymised comments from parents. Only 50% of parents responded to the questionnaire

sent out in the spring term. How could this be built upon? Would an incentive work? How about using survey monkey instead of a paper copy?

Consensus of discussion Questionnaire feedback was very positive. It may be worth sending out next years on Survey Monkey but not online and a hard copy as parents may fill in both copies.

An incentive is not worth the time and effort. If parents want to fill out the questionnaire they will. Those who don't are probably either happy or not concerned.

Don't change to Survey Monkey at the end of term as the demographic will change and the results will not be a fair reflection.

Comment consensus

Homework is the same thing every week. Can this be changed occasionally to engage the pupils? Pupils find it boring. If they perhaps had Topic homework once a month this may spark a little interest. A parent also mentioned that teachers should check word searches for rude words before they are sent home.

A reminder for which day spelling tests are to be done would be useful if changed from the normal day.

Mark and acknowledge the homework. This is the book parents see the most so comments are useful and welcomed.

House Points Parents have no degree of confidence that house points are correct as children tell them they do not add them to the pot upon receipt. There is a huge discrepancy between the key stages. Perhaps to help the KS1 children counters could be added to different boxes?

Behaviour The behaviour system is very visual and good. However why do some children have separate reward charts and why are children not rewarded for never being put on cream or purple? This seems very unfair as other children are rewarded for being good just because they usually aren't.

8. AOB

Mrs Broome explained that all other business would be minuted and put to school and answered at the next forum meeting if relevant.

Sports and Fixtures A parent mentioned that the school does not have very many traditional team sports and although the types of sports are quite varied in school, they are not sure how good some Premier sessions are. Teams would help with festival sports as the parent attended a girls football match earlier in the year and you could tell just by looking that our team did not play together regularly. There are professional clubs which have development

programmes which can be accessed but which school have not. Another parent mentioned that longer clubs would be helpful for those parents who work.

Mrs Fildes explained that Sports Premium money is for all pupils and that not all children like competitive sports/teams. The school ethos is that PE is used for fitness rather than competitiveness as there is a balance needed for sport and education.

The parent understood this but expressed a concern that if the pupils were going to attend sport festivals then they should practise as a team for a few weeks beforehand.

Scooter/Cycle Hut A parent expressed a concern about cars parking outside the school and asked why the school did not have a scooter/cycle hut so that more children can ride to school. Also why can't school suggest a walking bus to parents to stop this?

Mrs Fildes explained that school does everything they can regarding the parking but they cannot preach to parents. Building a hut is something school can discuss but budget is very tight so where would this money come from?

The parent mentioned asking parents to fundraise.

Religion A parent expressed concern over their view that the school was biased towards Christianity and suggested that the school needed balance. One 'open the book' assembly encouraged pupils to attend the Messy Church to learn the ending of one of the stories. They also do not believe that the prayer at the end of assembly should start with 'Dear God' and end with 'Amen'.

Mrs Fildes explained that the curriculum was very balanced and took all religions and faiths into consideration when teaching and practising assemblies. They do not indoctrinate and encourage the pupils to question all beliefs.

Mrs Broome reiterated that all other business would be looked into by staff and answered at the next forum meeting.

