



## **PARENT COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2018**

### ***Welcome and minutes of the last meeting***

Apologies were received from Nessa Stringer (Chair), Hayley Thistlewaite, Helen McKinley and Noreen Gomez. Emma Briggs chaired the meeting on behalf of Nessa Stringer. The minutes were updated to reflect that Helen McKinley put herself forward a parent rep for year 4, Jo Pearce for year 2 and Nick Fane for year 5. Kelly Kelly put herself forward as a parent rep for year 6 at the meeting.

### ***Present***

Pier Anscombe (reception teacher), Zoe Garbarz (INco) Dee Simson (Local Authority Governor), Adrienne Nhadi (Vice Chair of Governors), Orla Andrew (parent), Nicki Lawes (parent), Neena Arora (parent), Kelly Kelly (parent), Nick Fane (parent), Marisa Nixon, (parent), Urszula Funnell (parent), Jo Pearce (parent), Alan Chambers (parent), Fitzroy Benjamin (parent), Emma Briggs (secretary).

### ***Governors Resource Committee***

As a faith school, Our lady of Lourdes receives only 90% of funding from the local authority and the school must find an extra 10% of funds. One of the ways of raising the additional 10% is through the governor's fund. Parents are asked to make a minimum annual voluntary contribution of £30 into the fund which is then put towards capital and running costs of the school. The school can apply for other capital funding from local authority funds, but any application submitted above £2,000 means the school must agree to find 10% of the amount requested.

Only a small (approx.30%) of families currently contribute to the fund which totals on average £350 per month. Dee Simpson spoke of the importance of parents contributing into the governor's fund as this one of the ways in which the school can make up the shortfall and we are currently at our lowest levels. Without these funds the school will be unable to continue with the recent fantastic works such as new classrooms, library and of course the playground.

- **Action:** EB to arrange a small working party to get together to take forward ideas as to how we can encourage parents to contribute to the governor's fund.
- **Action:** DS to provide further information/statistics relating to governor fund.

### ***Mission Statement/Parent View***

AN updated the group that the school has received a lot of positive responses from parents, teachers, governors and children regarding the schools new Mission Statement. Live, Love, Learn continues to be an important theme of our mission statement. On Friday 9th an event was held for parents/carers to join the children, governors and staff in the hall to craft the statement's final form based on everyone's feedback.

AN also reminded the group about Parent View, which is an opportunity to tell Ofsted what they think about the school. <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk>

### ***Policies***

The Homework, Anti-Bullying and Behavior policy are the policies due for review and to be updated by the summer term. Pier Anscombe noted that it is important for all stakeholders to have the opportunity to contribute to the development of these policies, i.e. teachers, governors, children and parents/carers. Whilst the parent council will not be the forum to write and implement policies; it will provide the opportunity for discussion to feed into their development.

### ***Any other business***

#### ***Texting Service***

Nick Fane discussed a texting system in use at his place of work. The message is typed as an email but is then sent as a text to a distribution list, meaning that the message can be distributed to a wide audience. It is not known if text messages from the school can only be sent to one parent/carer per family (e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> priority) or if there is the facility to send to more than one parent/carer per family (if applicable).

- **Action:** NF to investigate messaging system further and bring to next meeting.
- **Action:** PA/ZG to confirm with the office if more than one parent/carer per family can be added to the text distribution list.

#### ***Fairness Process***

It was asked why some children are regularly chosen to take part in additional creative activities. PA and ZG confirmed that there are occasions where specific interventions may be targeted towards the children who may require additional support.

#### ***Creativity/crafts***

Discussion took place to include more creative learning particularly within the junior classes. It was agreed that many children would benefit from creative activities within their learning to balance out with the academic curriculum. It was noted that teachers also need ensure that the curriculum is met, as the school is required to evidence this.

- **Action:** PA/ZG to take forward creative curriculum with other teaching staff.

#### ***Local school trips***

It was raised if local attractions are also considered when planning school trips. ZG/PA confirmed that the school do take local facilities into consideration but noted that trips may be further afield if it fits in with the teaching of the curriculum.

- **Action:** ZG/PA to take forward with other teaching staff to ensure that local attractions are considered where they fall within the curriculum.

### ***Any other business***

- Praise was given to the school for remaining open during the bad weather as many other schools across Brighton and Hove were closed.
- SOS Coordinator item was postponed until the next meeting.

***Date of next meeting:*** Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 2-3pm in the Arches.

If you would like to get in touch email [parentcouncil@lourdes.brighton-hove@sch.uk](mailto:parentcouncil@lourdes.brighton-hove@sch.uk) or Facebook <https://m.facebook.com/groups/1849579305353769>