



Minutes

Meeting _ 16 June 2023 _ St Joan of Arc staff room

Present:

Ben Fuiava, Asst Headteacher
Vanessa Pazos, Board of Governors
Aine Stewart, Year 5 Rep
Chris Sudall, Year 3 rep
Angela Sanchez, Reception Rep
Baly, Year 2 Rep
Gill Auld

Apologies from:


Christina, Class Rep
Pippa, Year 4 Rep

BF welcomed everyone to meeting and asked if there were any issues arising from minutes of the previous meeting. There were no issues arising so minutes were accepted.

Item 1: School Uniform (Year 1) – ‘Could there be more flexibility on uniform? E.g. blue polo shirts instead of button up shirts? ‘

Overall, group agreed that while children do not like the shirts as much as polos, they do look smarter. BF confirmed that any change to uniform would require consultation, and any change would be required to meet 3 key criteria:

- Is the current uniform still fit for purpose?
- Are there any supply issues?
- Are there any cost issues?



Group agreed that none of the above have an impact on current uniform, and so there is no reason to change. BF noted that this will be monitored.

In a situation where a different garment can be worn for medical purposes, school will ensure all staff are alerted. BF asked CS to send details directly and he will action.

Item 2: Day trips (Year 1) – ‘Year 1 did not have a day trip this year and I wondered why? They are always such a treat for the kids and it’s a shame they didn’t even get to Gillespie Park.’

BF acknowledged the importance of external trips for the children but explained that safety is paramount when leaving school. The current Year 1 cohort are a challenging year group and school has been focussing on social development and it was felt that they were not yet ready to go on external trip.

School trips are planned at the start of the year and are linked to the curriculum. VP suggested that increasing the ratio of helpers to children per trip could be looked at if enough volunteers were available.

Item 3: No smartphone initiative (Year 1) – ‘Just reading this article <https://amp.theguardian.com/technology/2023/jun/03/much-easier-to-say-no-irish-town-unites-in-smartphone-ban-for-young-children> about a town in Ireland where the parents collectively agreed not to give smartphones to their primary school children. Is this initiative something that could potentially be replicated at jofa?’

BF confirmed that many Year 5 and 6 children do have smartphones for safety reasons as they walk to and from school on their own. London is a very different environment to the one described in the article, and, at the moment, smartphones are not posing a problem for school and so it does not seem appropriate to change. It was agreed to leave choice with parents.

Item 4: Noise in dining hall (Year 3) – ‘The volume in dining hall is really high at lunchtime and quite a few parents have mentioned it and some children are leaving the hall early and not eating at all. Can it be checked for the decibel levels and some form of sound proofing perhaps.’

BF confirmed that the dining hall can often be noisy but not overly so – there will always be a certain level of noise with 120 eating and chatting and this is acceptable. School has strategies in place to help any child struggling with this – for example ear defenders can be worn and there is a quiet space available for children to go to. BF confirmed that he would follow up the point about children leaving the hall though as there is adequate supervision to ensure that no child leaves before eating. School will continue to monitor the noise level.



Item 5: Supervision in the playground at break times.

CS noted that there had been some behaviour issues during breaks and asked how many staff are available to supervise. BF confirmed that there are 12 staff on supervision duty – 6 in lower area and 6 in top area. The staff are trained to deal with issues as they arise and only if medium or serious is it escalated to teachers and recorded. In this way, school are aware of repeat offenders and can deal with this.

Item 6: Drop off and pick up arrangements - some parents feel it's too ordered and there isn't enough space for parents to mill about especially at pick up, which helps build community.

BF agreed that the social aspect of dropping off and picking up is important, but that safeguarding must be paramount. School layout dictates that teachers have to bring children down to be collected and this can be chaotic if not managed, especially now that Support Staff are redeployed to ASC.

VP added that there are other opportunities for parents to be social eg cake sales once a month. AS noted that Reception parents find it difficult to access information. BF agreed and suggested that the school newsletter every fortnight is a good way to pick up info and why the role of Class Reps is so important in providing a means of communication. BF suggested also that he will investigate arranging a social event for Reception parents at the start of the new year.

School generated agenda items

Item 7: Parental Questionnaire

BF explained that a parental questionnaire would shortly be circulated and asked Reps to please encourage parents to complete.

Item 8: Summer Fete, Saturday 1 July


BF noted that there is a shortage of volunteers. CS will ask BBQ volunteers to sign up and AS will do a round up later today and try to get some more people involved.

AOB

AS asked if there had been a change in school lunch supplier? BF confirmed that there had not.

Baly asked if it would be possible to offer 2 different pick-up times for ASC? BF said he would investigate this but thought that perhaps there would be a staffing issue which would prevent this being an option.

CS asked if it was possible to get agenda and minutes via email? GA said this could be done if all gave consent for email address to be used for this purpose. GA



will liaise with Sue in office to arrange this and will use email as well as WhatsApp in future. Agenda and Minutes can also be uploaded to website so link can be circulated.

Dates of next meetings:

Aim is for Parent Forum to hold meeting once a term, ideally towards the end of the term. GA will liaise re dates for 2023/24 in September.