

fortismere

Minutes of the Parent Forum 7 December 2016 at 7.00pm

Governors present: Helen Glass (*headteacher*), Mark Chapman (*Chair of Governors-elect*), Wendy Sloane, Link Governor for Communications

Welcome from Wendy Sloane, Link Governor of Communications

Introduction to Mark Chapman, incoming Chair of Governors

Intro of Senior Leadership Team: Helen Glass, Headteacher

Rationale of Parent Forum (see document on website)

Terms of Reference (see document on website)

Please note that the discussions brought up (below) will be passed on to the Senior Leadership Team and Governors, which is why there is no immediate detail or response.

Discussion of Mobile Phone Policy

Mrs. Glass discussed the rationale behind the introduction of the policy, primarily safeguarding issues (bullying, sharing inappropriate material, using phones to invite outsiders onsite) and the impact on social interaction of students. The policy has been amended so children can use phones to and from school in response to parents. Since the policy was implemented, six percent of children have had them confiscated.

- Parents/carers were mainly happy with the policy, saying that social interaction has improved.
- Parents/carers said they “were unhappy that children have to lie about having phones in their bags”; are not now able to be informed if their children have an unannounced sports match that day; pointed out that there was not a full consultation of parents beforehand, and wondered what is being done to help students with medical needs, such as life-threatening asthma, who may need to rely on a phone.

Other discussion topics

Website:

- Posting of Extra Curricular activities
- Navigation Improvements
- Staff email address visibility in Parentmail comms

Lunch provision

- Quality of current space and queuing
- Fizzy drinks

Curriculum

- Science provision

Pastoral Care

- Management of bereavement and divorce

Communication

- Parents understanding of Grades on Go4Schools

Buildings

- Worn and dirty carpeting and allergies

Topics for future sessions (few received via email)

- Teenage sex and what provisions the school has in place to discuss this
- Drug and alcohol abuse (as above)
- Extending the reputation of school
- Littering
- Using the Parent Forum as a fund-raising arm
- Monitoring levels of sexual assault and harassment at school
- Educating children that online pornography is not a true representation of sex
- Educating pupils about importance of feminism and LGBTQ issues

Election of Chair of Forum – to be decided in future.

- *It was decided to form a Working Group to decide the agenda and form of the next meeting, time and date to be confirmed. The next Parent Forum date will be decided then. A number of parents volunteered to be part of the working group. Wendy Sloane will coordinate.*
- *Parents/carers said they would like at least part of the Parent Forum to be held with parents/carers only, with no staff members present.*
- *The next Governors' Surgery will be Tuesday, January 17th from 5:30pm – 7:30pm.*

Meeting closed at 8:30.