



Parents' Council Meeting Minutes: Summer Term

23/05/19: Behavioural Policy Session: Mrs Wretham, Miss Wright, Williams, Mrs Gray, Mrs Marriot

06/06/19: Regular Parents' Council Meeting: Mrs. Leeman, Miss Wright, Mrs Williams, Mrs Winwood, Mrs Gray

Mrs Leeman (Headteacher)

Miss Wright (Chair) *Parent*

Mrs Williams *Parent*

Mrs Gray *Parent*

Mrs Winwood *Parent*

Mrs Marriot *Parent*

Dear parents & guardians,

As a reminder, the parents' council meet on a termly basis, and is a forum in which parents come together to share ideas & put forwards their views to the head and the governing body. (This is not about child or class specific issues, which should be discussed with the class teacher) The intent is that parents can get involved in the active decision making of the school, fostering a culture of ownership & participation. The council aim to be representative across the school, being parents to children currently in nursery, reception, Y2, 3, 5, & 6. This is separate to being a class rep, although some members also have that role.

This term the parents' council have been discussing a number of topics, and we would like to share with you the key minutes/actions from those. Please feel free to engage with any member as above on any of these topics, or on future discussion areas.

New Inspection framework

Governmental policy is that schools are exempt from Ofsted inspections if they are outstanding, but are checked & monitored regularly through data/performance. That is why we haven't had an official inspection since 2006. To ensure Welford continues to drive performance and quality, Welford paid to have a private inspection last year, and also buys in learning & improvement officer services.

Importantly - there is a new Ofsted framework from September '19, which still focuses on data, but has been broadened out to encompass a more balanced curriculum. Schools will now not solely be rated by data, but also by how they ensure a broad focus, e.g. across languages, PSE and other core subjects like geography & history etc. The new inspection framework will be uploaded to the website shortly.

At Welford, these changes are already in effect, as part of the school's vision for a rich educational experience. The specific curriculum is set by the teacher for that year to ensure key topics are covered in the best way, allowing this programme of study to be taught effectively. These are signed off and progression checked regularly by the SLT. This is also so that the classes can run whether the normal teacher is there or not.

Hall Update

The hall & nursery are progressing according to schedule, with agreement that the process has been pretty seamless so far, and that the children have enjoyed seeing the changes & building works. The nursery building is being built off site, and will be arriving later in June. Discussion of how the resulting outside spaces will change - confirmation that these are still being planned... watch this space!

Relationship & Sex Education Update

A new policy has come into effect from the government called 'all about me', rolling out across schools. At Welford this will link to our Safeguarding & 'Taking Care' programmes. This will be a 1 week activation, date tbc - parents will be informed in advance. This will be taught by the class teacher, and is appropriately targeted at each age group. The school will also organise a visit for the PARENTS, from an expert to give advice on how to talk to your children about relationship subjects. Date TBC

Parent (Governors) fund

Funding at schools is an ongoing issue. Having insufficient financing to pay for upkeep of premises, as well as vital equipment is something that most schools are dealing with, and Welford is absolutely no exception. We are very lucky to have the amazing support of FOWS, along with other gratefully received donations, which provide much needed support. However, we still lack vital funds. Many schools are now talking the approach of asking parents to make a nominal voluntary payment each year to put towards such funds, (often called a governors fund and holding charitable status) and this is fully separate from the main budget as given to the school by the LA. **We would like to ask your feedback on taking such an approach at Welford.** Be that on the regularity, the amount, or any views on usage. This would potentially come into effect from the new school year in September taking into account the feedback. Please contact any of the parent council as above with questions or feedback.

Behavioural Policy session:

Purpose:

The school's Behaviour & Discipline policy is being updated, & the school want to get the PC's inputs to ensure that it is bought into by the school. It is currently available for anyone to see on the school website. The purpose is to create clear guidelines ensuring consistency across the school, & liaising with parents for consistent messaging & increased parental accountability. The policy sets out guidance at school in fostering good values and behaviour, to include children's own ideals, and a clear system of sanctions.

The policy allows for flexibility for teachers to adapt within this for the needs of their class, and in addition, the school also creates individual behaviour plans as required for those children who may need extra support. These are tailored by child and aren't included in the document.

Policy content:

- Encouraging good behaviour
 - o The policy lays out what is meant by good behaviour, from the more obvious 'please/thankyou, taking turns etc', through to examples of praising good behaviour. E.g. modelling good behaviours, praising in front of others so it can be used as an example, the making of good choices, house point system etc (being reviewed)
- Discouraging inappropriate behaviour
 - o See policy for more details. There is flexibility to allow the teacher to adapt to what they know will work best for their class/child. E.g. sometimes just 'a look' may suffice.
 - o (1) regular reminders of the class rules
 - o (2) verbal reprimand (School is moving away from the sometimes used 'names on a board' which is quite public, to a more discreet method)
 - o (3) time outs
 - o (4) removal of privileges
 - o (5) Serious misdemeanours that are hurtful/aggressive/persistent are kept in a behavioural incident folder.
 - o (6) Serious behavioural incidents are those that are deliberate and inflict verbal/mental/physical harm on others. All such incidents are recorded and parents will be contacted by the school, indicating the levels of their child's involvement. If a child builds up a series of being involved in such incidents, the parents and pupil will have regular meetings at school to discuss a behaviour plan. If after persisting with the agreed process for a mutually agreed time the child is unable to adapt their behaviours, then measures may have to be created for the child not to attend/not included at social play times for the day.
 - o (7) Exclusion from school during lunchtimes.
 - o (8) Exclusion from school (after consultation with governors and the LA)

Next steps policy suggestions:

- Policy sign off: Ensure parents and pupils buy into this. Suggested that the finished document is sent home, alongside a 'simplified children's' version. Parents should talk this through with their children, 'sign' and send back, to create a feeling of everyone buying into this standard.
 - Make clear that children should never be asked to keep secrets, they often need to talk through things to make sense of them.
 - That all parents/guardians should speak to their teacher if they have any concerns whatsoever, and then escalate as appropriate. The school has an open approach, and parents should feel like they are able to discuss any situation with the class teacher or leadership team.
 - Understood that an individual approach is needed for some children, but to ensure that any particular 'reprimand or action' can't be perceived as 'fun' by the rest of the class. E.g. don't have a pupil in plain view outside the class, in what could be perceived as 'free time'. The approach itself isn't questioned, but makes it easier if the rest of the class just don't see this.
 - Would be helpful to add visual examples in the document of how each class creates their own rules together.
 - To update in the policy:
 - Remove the 'names on the board' approach
 - (4) change to 'poor' rather than 'bad' choices
 - Change the wording for 'statements of special educational needs'
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Other

- Requested clarity on the role/names of all teachers, TA's and SLT, in combination with the 2019-2020 staff confirmations.
 - House point system is being reviewed to ensure it is fair and accountable.
 - Clarity requested ongoing on any staffing changes even on a wk to wk basis. Important that parents know who is signing out their child that day. Acknowledged that staffing may change regularly due to a number of factors.
 - Maypole attire. Acknowledged that the wording had changed positively to 'smart clothing' from 'dresses' for girls. Lack of consistency on school shoes (some still wearing sandals). Discussed feedback that only girls are allowed to 'express themselves' in their clothing. Proposed that the school hold a simple vote:
 - o A) Keep as is (boys in uniform, girls in smart summer wear)
 - o B) All in uniform
 - o C) All in smart summer wear (acknowledging the risk that even with a dress code, the level of smartness may drop.)
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Next meeting: 2H September. Date TBC

Proposed Agenda:

- Understanding the collective worship policy at school
- Role of governors and how to improve visibility
- Holiday clubs
- Parking & speed near school
- AOB