

Parent Forum Friday 19 May 2023

Present:

Karen Law (Parent Governor Minutes)

Donna Akrigg (Assistant Head Teacher)

10 parents / carers from school

Agenda items put forward by school:

- PHSE
- Home School Agreement
- Home school learning

PSHE Parent Consultation Responses

DA advised that parents had been consulted with regarding the PSHE policy and curriculum. The policy is currently being updated. DA shared responses from the Google form which had been completed by some parents. One parent attending the meeting expressed her view that a particular comment concerning Trans/Gender fluidity was upsetting to her. DA reinforced that this was a parent views and not reflective of the school. DA confirmed that the curriculum will not be altered as a result of the particular comments and that the school's ethos is one of inclusivity. It was agreed that children need to be aware of the Tran/gender fluidity issues as lack of knowledge and information can cause stigma and decimation. It can also prevent children from being open and accessing support about their gender identity.

PHSE – Curriculum discussion

Concern was expressed by some parents attending the meeting about the age appropriateness of parts of the curriculum. DA and other parents explained that PHSE matters will be part of the curriculum at secondary school. It was also discussed that peers will be talking or beginning to talk about these matters and that it is important to make sure children are given the correct information in a classroom environment whereby they can ask questions. DA explained that although she appreciates the desire to shield the children in a primary setting from challenging subjects, that abuse, although relatively rare, does happen and that children should be made aware according to their age. Discussing and learning about the outlined areas in the curriculum whilst at Kildwick School gives them the opportunity to be educated in an environment they feel comfortable in before they move on to secondary school.

DA explained that parents are notified of PSHE topics and curriculum coverage by means of the curriculum newsletter. DA confirmed that there are some elements where children can be removed from the lesson, if feel that their children are not emotionally ready for such discussions or do not want them to be involved in such discussions. It was acknowledged the possible difficulties with this approach due to e.g playground talk. It was suggested that children taken out of the lessons are more likely to be inquisitive and ask peers about the lesson. There was discussion about it being better that the children hear accurate information from the teacher. DA also recognised that children's online access was a huge issue for teachers who cannot control what children do outside of school. It was also acknowledged that it is difficult to meet the expectations of all the parents whose approaches will differ.

DA explained that the earlier terms and vocabulary are normalised for the children then the easier it is in the future for the children to talk openly. It was explained that it is proven to protect children from abuse which is why such subjects are part of the curriculum. DA advised that the information gives the children confidence in respect of knowing their body anatomy whilst also respecting the parents' own approach. It was agreed that this is a difficult area as parents and carers all have different approaches, perspectives and views.

DA advised that parents can email the teacher to request more information and/or a discussion. She also sought to reassure those present that subjects are handled sensitively and in a matter of fact way. School arrange for SCARF to have a member of staff come into school to teach Sex Education lessons alongside the class teacher.

It was acknowledged that parents had differing views but that the priority for the school is to keep the children safe.

Home School Agreement

DA explained that all schools have a School Agreement which details what is expected from the school, parents and children. DA circulated the home school agreement with current changes due to be made in Autumn highlighted.

There was discussion around hygiene and one family said that they felt hygiene was better in covid times and raised concerns that there isn't always soap in the toilets. It was acknowledged that the younger children do often waste soap and that this is replaced by liquid soap when it is brought to the attention of staff. DA also explained that Mr Haston, a parent and nurse, visits the school annually to explain hand washing with the help of a special machine which shows where the children have missed when washing their hands. Hygiene is also part of the PSHE curriculum.

A parent brought up the fact that her daughter complains about the school toilets. DA advised that NYCC have advised that the toilets are not high up on the renovation list as they are better than those in some other schools. It was agreed that there could be a PTA fundraising event to improve the toilets for the children.

Home learning

Home Learning was discussed and DA expressed the school's preference that parents and children all check Google Classroom regularly. When the children are younger it is expected that parents use google classroom for curriculum updates and support.

With regards to home learning DA also explained that it is difficult sometimes to meet the expectations of all parents as some want more home learning and some less. DA noted that the school aims to ensure that any homework set is meaningful and has an impact on the child's progress by reinforcing learning in school. DA asked for feedback and it was noted that parents seem generally happy that children can complete the homework set over the course of a term. DA confirmed that the school is aware that children often have other evening commitments. DA would not expect the homework to be completed if this was causing upset to the child or their family and advised that school always endeavours to make the homework purposeful and relevant.

A concern was expressed by a parent that homework submitted is not marked and returned by the teachers. DA advised that teachers would not mark correct in red pen and then return the work to the children as this gives them an additional task and has little impact on academic progress. Instead teachers discuss the work in class and can use the homework to plan future lessons if it is felt that a

subject has not been grasped. DA advised that children show homework in class and house points are often handed out for completed homework. DA concluded that the teachers can be emailed direct if there are concerns regarding the homework.

Other Business

DA asked the parents if they had anything further to discuss. A parent expressed a concern about being able to get on google classroom. DA advised that the school office can be contacted for login details. DA advised that if parents already have a google account they should log out of that first. Mr. Horton would be able to assist if parents still can't get on.