

## Parent Council

## Agenda and Minutes

WB, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**Present:** Warrick Barton (Head) Charlotte Tremlett, Tracey King, Tracy Jones (arriving @ 3:20pm)

**Apologies:** Jo Barnes

Item	Topic	Discussion	Actions
1	School Uniform	It has been noticed that some pupils are wearing the purple hoodies during the school day. Previously, it had been a rule that these would only be worn for PE. WB raised a suggestion that came from teachers last year that we do keep the hoodies for PE only, but take the opportunity to move to a situation in which children wear their PE kit all day on their PE days. The benefits of this, such as cleaner kit, less lost property, less need to buy so many school jumpers etc were discussed.	<b>WB will communicate to all parents the change in policy from January 2017: on PE days, pupils will wear their PE uniform only; hoodies will only be worn on those days.</b>
2	The playground	The fact that the playground equipment and markings are looking old and tired (and some is out of action) was discussed. It was pointed out that the front playground is visitors' first impression of the school and that it needs updating.	<b>The PTA have asked WB for a 'wish list' on which we can spend funds raised this year. WB will make the playground development the single item on this list.</b>
3	School Discos	It was requested that the school hold a disco at some point in the year, as this was something that pupils	<b>WB will suggest to the PTA that this be one way in which they might</b>

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		have enjoyed in the past but which has not been held for some time. WB shared that this request has also come from the school council.	<b>consider raising funds for the school.</b>
4	Pupil records and permissions – could parent council check the paperwork?	Parents will be asked to update information and permissions that we hold for their children after a review of our records. This will happen in January. WB asked whether the parent council could check this paperwork for accuracy and to see whether there is anything in it that parents may find difficult to complete or might not want to complete.	<b>The parent council members will complete this paperwork ahead of it being sent to all parents in January. They will report any errors or suggestions for improvement to WB.</b>
5	(By email) It has been raised again that after school clubs have a bias towards boys' sport and that a greater variety of clubs would be appreciated.	WB responded with figures for the clubs: <i>Cooking club (44% girls), Tea-time madness (50% girls), Tennis (43% girls), Competitive Sports – Rugby in Term 1, Football in Term 2 (0% girls), Netball (100% girls), Creation Station (50% girls) Multi-Sports (40% girls) and Football (17% girls)</i> It is therefore true that boys' sport is probably over-represented somewhat, but not by a huge amount. It is also true that both boys and girls are welcome at any of the after-school clubs.	<b>Mr Miller will move his sports club to Mondays, while Mrs Mullen's netball club will remain on Wednesdays so that both boys and girls can do two different sports at no cost to parents during the week. The sports that he offers will continue to vary through the year, including athletics in which a girls' team will be recruited. These changes will happen from Term 3 (January). The school will continue to seek and accept offers of non-sporting clubs and they will be taken on whenever viable.</b>

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6	(By email) Religious visitors	<p>A parent has raised a question about visitors that the school has from Christian churches. It was felt that, if clergy from the church were permitted to attend events (such as the Harvest festival) then visitors from other religions should be permitted too.</p> <p>The headteacher agrees with this and it is certainly not the case that visitors from other religions are not allowed to come!!</p> <p>Neither is it the case that the school is actively seeking visits from the church. Rather, we are open to a wide range of visitors who approach us. Mrs Rawlinson, as RE leader in the school, had already organised a visitor from another religion last term and covered non-Christian festivals both with her class and in assemblies.</p> <p>It transpired that a number of parents think that Pensford is a 'church school'. In fact, we receive no funding or leadership from the diocese and we are <i>not</i> a church school. We are a local authority maintained school and as such any links with the church are simply part of our connection with the community as a whole.</p>	<p><b>To avoid confusion, WB will communicate to parents that we are not a church school.</b></p> <p><b>Mrs Rawlinson will continue to seek visits from a range of religions as part of our RE curriculum.</b></p>
7	(By email) Note-taking	<p>It had been suggested that having a member of staff from the office taking notes at Parent Council Meetings could present us with a situation in which it would be difficult for parents to raise concerns about any issues to do with administration. However, it was pointed out that this does not happen and that in fact the Headteacher or Parent Governor have always been the note-takers for Parent Council meetings.</p>	<p><b>Continue with current arrangements.</b></p>

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7	Change of personnel	<p>Having been part of the original Parent Council for a considerable period of time, Tracy Jones has decided to step down. Due to work commitments she would not often be able to attend future meetings, and already does a tremendous amount for the school such as through her work for the PTA. She also commented that she feels that the school is going very well now and that the need for her to present parents' concerns is much reduced.</p> <p>Other members of the group thanked her for her work, which has been very much appreciated over the years. In order to restore a link with each class, in addition to our parent governor link, it was decided to try to recruit a parent from Dragonfly class to the council to replace Tracy. In order to preserve the link with each class beyond July, it was decided that a Reception or Year 1 parent would be ideal.</p>	<p><b>Charlotte Tremlett will take over as the representative for Kingfisher;</b>  <b>Tracey King will be the representative for Otter;</b>  <b>Jo Barnes will continue as the Parent Governor on the committee</b>  <i>We have a vacancy for the representative for Dragonfly.</i></p> <p><b>WB will advertise the vacancy for a parent council member to parents of Reception and Year 1 pupils.</b></p> <p><b>If more than one parent applies, an election will take place as it would for a governor vacancy.</b></p>

**Date of next meeting:** *It was agreed that we would continue to meet on the second Wednesday of term. The next meetings this academic year will therefore be at 3:00pm on the following Wednesdays: 11<sup>th</sup> January, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 3<sup>rd</sup> May and 14<sup>th</sup> June*