

Academy Council Minutes – 22 October 2024

Attendees

Claire Willis (CW) Principal
Claire Kalinowska (CK) parent/chair
Clair Tramontini (CT) parent/chair
Faye Gaffer (FG) Office Manager (minutes)
Parents online

1) Dismissal time

CK advised that they had been made aware of some frustrations with a delayed dismissal time from specific classes, this has an impact on parents if they have other schools to go to collect children. CW completely understands the frustrations, and is aware of the classes in question. In response to this the leadership team have spoken to the class teachers and have been going around the school 5 minutes before the end of day to make sure everyone is getting ready to go. There is also a reminder in the daily briefing. CW has had feedback that this is now resolved but will continue to monitor and remind staff.

2) Behaviour in specific year group

CK and CT explained that they had been made aware of some behaviour issues, specifically in Year 4. Parents have raised concerns that it has been going on for a while.

CW explained the strategies that are in place and the behaviour policy. When staff are aware a child is not following the behaviour policy, we look at triggers and identify, for example, if children are not getting on together etc. We then look at two things, education and consequences.

For behaviour, consequences range from detention, restorative conversations, internal isolation with Principal/Assistant Principal's or phase leader for social times or for the whole day depending on the severity of the incident. If the incident is severe it could lead to a fixed term suspension, and if the severe behaviour continues can lead to permanent exclusion in extreme cases.

In terms of educating children the school identifies the need of the child. We have emotional trained teachers to look at social interaction and we have a bespoke intervention timetable if a need is identified. We can refer to external agencies outside of school such as the early help team who will help the school to support the child. We can also do a referral to Tier 3 support (similar to CAMHS) looking at social interaction etc. CW explained that the school also has support from PC Goodwin, the local community police officer. PC Goodwin has been to whole school assemblies and year groups specifically and has been undertaking some anti-social behaviour discussions with children so they understand the legal side of these choices and to help prevent them escalating.

In summary the school follows the behaviour policy levels, education and helping and teaching children to be better citizens along with restorative work. We are aware that there could be specific children who do not respond to this offer and we then look at alternative provision support.

CW explained that there have been assemblies recently looking at the language being used by children in the playground. Assemblies have been age appropriate in the phases and have gone through the consequences of using bad language.

CK asked for clarification of the reporting lines for any concerns, CW summarised these as follows:

First point of contact would be class teacher or phase leads:

Nursery/Reception - Georgina (Assistant Principal)

Year 1 & 2 - Ana (KS1 Phase Leader)

Year 3 & 4 Laura (LKS2 Phase Leader)

Year 5 & 6 Becky (Assistant Principal)

Leappad Sarah Wright (Assistant Principal)

Lucy Hopegood - SENCo

CW asked that any concerns that parents have been communicated to staff as soon as possible so that they can be resolved.

3) Parent Consultations

CK reported that it had been flagged that April was potentially too late for parent consultations and if it would be possible to either have two per year or earlier in the year to help support children earlier if needed. CW confirmed that this has been discussed within Leadership meetings a few weeks ago. A written report will

comes out in the summer term but we will look at hosting parent consultations in December/January. It was agreed that the end of January would be a good time.

4) Dojo App

CT said that she had been made aware of some problems with the App where parents cannot view their children. CW asked if anyone is experiencing problems to email the office and these issues will be passed to Hazel to investigate as the main point of contact for this App.

5) Parking - Nacton Road

A discussion took place around the difficulty with the reduced parking in the car park currently which is having an impact on staff and students. We have put up additional banners, signs in the car park, and along the road and have spoken to Suffolk Highways, the local MP and the community. We need to ensure that parents are aware of the difficulty in parking and dangers of parking outside the school. There is a link on the Ipswich Borough Council website which can be found [here](#) for anyone who would like to report dangerous parking. CW explained that there is an initiative that the school are about to launch called a 'walking bus' which may help a little with reducing the parking outside the school – the information will be sent out to parents today.

6) Smoking and Vaping at the School Gate

The school has a sign outside the gates and inside the school gates to try and deter those collecting from smoking and vaping. CK highlighted that parents have complained that they have to walk through a cloud of smoke as they enter the school gates. It was agreed that this is up to the individual parents and is their responsibility to not gather and smoke outside the gates. Another reminder will be added to the newsletter and staff will monitor as and when they can.

7) Playground etiquette

CK reported that there has been some concerns around strong and aggressive language in the playground from adults and of some children recently running through the playground using language that isn't appropriate. CW confirmed that as staff we are monitoring children's language whilst at school and giving consequences where inappropriate language is used and assemblies have been held as above mentioned to address this situation. It is the responsibility of all adults/parents to ensure that inappropriate language and behaviours will not be

tolerated in and around the playground. If this isn't followed there are actions that can be taken, for example, a ban from the site if required. It was agreed that as adults we need to ensure that we model how we would expect children to behave and be consistent with this whilst on site.

8) Learning and lunch clubs

CW explained that there is a student leadership team at the school which runs on a Monday lunchtime. They have a high vis orange vest to wear at social times so children can identify who they are and talk to them if they would like to. The student leaders were voted for by classes and there are two per year group. This half term the team are looking at democracy and will be doing an assembly for the school this week to talk about this topic. The leadership team recently have said that students should be doing litter duty, playground champions to ensure equipment and lost property is collected, and reporting if children are worried (instead of using the worry boxes in each classroom) to teachers. They have also completed a piece of work around where you feel safe in school and where you don't so that this can be addressed. This team works closely with the staff. There is also a gardening club at lunchtime in the Quad – they have grown tomatoes, strawberries, potatoes, runner beans and spring flowers. EYFS grew courgettes, pumpkins and sunflowers. There is also a choir which takes place on a Wednesday lunchtime.

Each half term the newsletter covers the learning that has been covered within each Year group. There is also a big project being undertaken on the website and updating this to make it more interactive.

CW confirmed that we will also have a new menu after half term which will have specific Halal meals on so these are clearly identifiable. This will be circulated to parents/carers once available.

9) Any other business

Clothing – a discussion took place around lost property and the issue of some children coming home with incorrect clothes. CW confirmed that children (up to year 2) are supervised for changing for PE and available to help with shoe laces, jumpers etc. Sometimes if a child in the younger years has a toileting accident and we cannot get hold of the parent immediately we do try and get them into clean clothes until we can contact the parent. Children are always given a gentle reminder to put their clothes into their bags during PE and Swimming time. Please could parents also ensure that uniform, coats etc are named as it makes it easier for things to be identified and returned.

School photos - school photographs will be taking place on 21st November 2024. There will be sibling photographs in the morning between 8.00am and 9.00am that morning. Details will be sent over half term with further details.

Flu immunisations - the school nursing team will be in school on 11 November for flu immunisations. Information has already been circulated to parents but any questions please contact the school office.

Janet Mackenzie – CW explained that Janet is the Principal at Solebay which is one of the Trust's London Schools. All the principals in the Trust work together, share ideas, best practice and to help add capacity. It has been working really well as this adds capacity if CW is in meetings or in class with children as Janet is there as a contact for all other school business. The Trust's Executive team, which includes the principals, meet every half term to work together.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 3rd December, 9.15 - 10.15am