

Toddington St George Church of England School

Parent Forum 2016-17

Monday 7th November 215pm

Focus: New Consultation and Parents Meeting for Autumn 2016, National Curriculum/ Assessment and Reporting

Apologies:

Mrs Lawrence: Mr Gaffey

Present:

Mrs Choosey (Chair): Mrs Williams: Mrs Khan: Mr Squires: Mrs Wilson: Mrs Roopra: Mrs Hall

Mr Turner

New format for Consultation and Parent Meeting:

Question: Was the new format for Autumn 2016 more or less helpful?

- **Strengths:**
- Afternoon sessions were useful to take away some problems of childcare cover for some parents.
- Early years parents found early meetings beneficial to get re assurance that their child was happy and was settled into their new classroom and if appropriate discuss any mutual concerns early in the term.
- Parents liked the opportunity to meet with their child's teacher early on to assist on building a good working relationship for the year.
- Parents liked the personal approach of one to one meetings and appreciated the time given by all the teachers.

- **Areas for discussion/ consideration**
- Working parents found it harder to organise leaving work early for meetings in the afternoon.
- Parents of older children felt they would potentially prefer a meeting later in the term where the focus of the meeting is on the academic progress of their child, as this would be more informative and if necessary provide time for interventions at home.
- Some parents questioned the privacy of some consultations that took place in shared rooms where they felt overheard and limited the opportunity to potentially raise concerns.

Question: National Curriculum 2014

- **Strengths**
- Question was asked that there is a perception that Parkfields children are on the whole one year ahead in comparison to other children at Harlington?

- Parents felt the school had raised aware of the new curriculum to all parents.
- **Areas for discussion/ consideration**
- Most parents are aware of the New Curriculum but there is differences in their understanding of how it has changed and this leads to some confusion amongst parents. Parents of new children have no comparison where as parents of children who experienced the old curriculum lack some clarity over the changes.
- The forum was unsure of a format for this but would like something concise and simple.

Question: Impact of the curriculum

- Some parents would like to be kept informed about the key areas of teaching that children need to help reinforce at home. In particular big changes to how children will be taught. For example the focus of joined up handwriting in early years.
- At this stage of the year parent workshops had not been delivered on how children are taught therefore these sessions may alleviate some concerns.
- Most parents felt that the curriculum leaflets at the start of the term are beneficial and informative and allowed parents to share in their children's learning and help reinforce the topics at home.
- **Areas for discussion/ consideration**
- Parents would welcome some kind of framework for how engaged parents can best support their children. Some kind of short and simple help sheets for how parents can work with their children at home. Potentially an on-line format.

Question: Assessment and Reporting:

- **Strengths**
- Do you know how your child is assessed?
- General feedback was that parents of children in SATS year were confident about how their child is assessed.
- **Areas for discussion/ consideration**
- New parents to the school or in early years were a little unclear about how their child is assessed and when and how.
- Some reception parents had heard of benchmarking and were aware that this is not compulsory and were unsure what the school strategy was going to be.

Question : Work sharing sessions.

- Work sharing sessions 'open classrooms'
- All parents enjoyed really value the open classroom sessions as they feel it provides the children with an opportunity to shine and parents and opportunity to see they children in

their learning environment. All parents enjoy this experience of their child showcasing their work.

- **Areas for discussion/ consideration**

- Some parents expressed that there appears to be some inconsistencies in what is available to see in the classrooms and what happens to children that have no one available to come and look at their work.

- **Question: Consultation Evenings:**

- Some expression that earlier time prevents an opportunity for parents to view school project work in the hall or buy uniform or search for lost property etc and most parents value this opportunity.
- In addition some parents valued the opportunity to have the children in the hall while attending parents evening especially as it reduces childcare needs.
- Parents would like to know the format of the remaining parent consultations timings for the year to assist with planning.

- **Question: Annual reports**

- Parents appreciate the balance that the current format provides. Progress review against age related expectations and effort rating.
- Parents appreciate and value the comments about their child's progress in all aspects of the curriculum made by the staff.
- Current format is also in line with Parkfields that assists with transition.
- Parents extremely appreciate the time that most teachers give to make personal comments about their child's individuality and personal development that they have achieved and in some respects value these more. They would like this to be consistent across all classes.

- **Areas for discussion/ consideration**

- Some parents would like feedback on the impact of their child's results and what happens next.
- Most parents were unsure what was meant by the next steps for learning.