

Parent and Carer Forum Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 28th November 2023
St Scholastica's Catholic Primary School

Present: Mrs Brierley and Miss Cousins. A group of around 12 parents of children from Reception to Year 6

Mrs Brierley opened the meeting by warmly welcoming the parents in attendance. She shared how keen the school staff are to work in partnership with parents and the forums are a way of improving communication with parents and to give parents a way of expressing their concerns, raise issues or make suggestions on how best the school can support the children and their families.

Mrs Brierley shared the school's vision which is to ensure that the children are readily equipped for the next stage of their development. St Scholastica's is lucky to have a dedicated experienced staff who are committed to achieving this vision.

POINTS for DISCUSSION

1. **Positive comments for EYFS** – A Reception parent started our discussion with some very positive comments about the Reception staff. She had been very impressed with the diligence that they have shown in ensuring children's individual needs are met. She was impressed with their knowledge of what each child needs to move their learning on and she was very pleased with parental support she had received in being able to support her child in phonics
Miss Hovell had hosted a parents Phonics workshop earlier in the term, this explained What is phonics? How is it taught? The different sounds and how to pronounce them, where you can find support online
2. **Y1 support for phonics parents** – The phonics workshop that was held in Reception, could this be held for Year 1 parents also?
ACTION: Arrange a phonics workshop for Yr1.
3. **Incentives for reading** – One parent mentioned that their child is sometime reluctant to read. A few years ago, we had a reading challenge. Could we do something similar? Parents shared that this had worked well and they would like to see more of this in the school
ACTION: Reading challenge for the New Year
4. **Parents workshop in maths:** Just like the parent workshops in phonics could this be done for maths? Many parents remarked that they were unaware of the teaching methods, and this can make supporting the children difficult. It can be confusing for the children.
ACTION: Arrange maths workshops for KS1 and KS2
5. **WAMHS Workshops** – Miss Cousins explained St Scholastica's is part of the Well-Being and Mental Health in Schools (WAMHS) project. The service aims to improve mental health and wellbeing support for children in schools. As part of this service, the school has been assigned a clinical psychologist who attends school on a fortnightly basis often offering workshops. Miss Cousins has noticed these are often poorly attended - She would like to know what can be done to help more parents take advantage of this service?

A parent suggested that because Miss Cousins is the SENCO, parents may feel that these sessions are only for pupils who have a special educational need. Miss Cousins explained that sessions are open to all, and she will make this clear in future communications.

Another parent suggested recording the workshops and information sessions and making them readily available so that if parents are unable to attend, they can watch the sessions at a time that is more convenient for them.

ACTION:

- 1) Miss Cousins to communicate to parents that WAMHS sessions are open to all
- 2) Ensure recordings of all information sessions are placed on the school's YouTube channel and shared with parents via Class Dojo/Text and/or email.

6. **Links with St Scholastica's Church** – In the past, children from the school would lead a Sunday Mass at the church. Children from the school would read and the school choir would lead the singing. Is this something that could be restarted.

ACTION: Miss Cousins/Mrs Brierley to liaise with Fr Stewart to set a date for the Spring Term

7. **Summer Fayre** – Parents are keen to have a Summer Fair this year. Now the Parent's Association (St Scholastica's Squad) is formed is this something that we could have again this summer.

ACTION: Speak to Chair/Vice Chair of the PA about future plans and possible summer fayre for Summer 2024