



Manchester
Communication
Primary
Academy

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Parent Focus Group Minutes

21/9/22

19 parents attended the focus group.

The parents represented a spread of year groups, although nursery was less well represented. The headteacher & parent governor (Alex & Christina) agreed to focus on recruiting nursery parents for the next PFG.

1. ESA

Alex explained the school's approach to ESA, how it makes up part of the compulsory school hours and why this slot was chosen to do this rather than 2-3 on a Friday. Parents agreed that this was a good choice.

Alex explained the options available to children, how options are chosen by children and how often they change. Parents agreed that this model was good, but asked that if a child does not get their first choice this time, can they be prioritised for next time? Alex agreed that this would happen.

Parents asked how the children knew what they were choosing. Alex explained that the options are presented to them with an explanation and activity titles are clearly descriptive, eg choir. Boxing is facilitated by a coach. Alex explained how the school has a local club directory and seeks to sign-post children with a specific talent to a local club if possible. Parents asked if more external providers might be used in future - this is something the school is exploring.

Alex explained to parents that if children do not complete/hand in homework, they do it in ESA time. Numbers were high for this in week 1 but will hopefully reduce over the next few weeks. 1 parent reported that her child was in the homework catch-up option, came home and immediately did next week's homework. Parents supported this approach.

Alex talked through the pupil leadership options and how these take place in ESA time. Some parents questioned if this limits pupils' access to the wider offer, which Alex agreed it does. The school will explore how this can rotate.

Parents are invited in the February showcase to join ESA, following some concern about having to join in with gymnastics, parents were keen to be able to get involved and see what ESA activities are like. A video will also be made for the website explaining what ESA is and how it works. This will help new parents and those not in attendance today.

Uniform

One parent raised a concern about the quality of the uniform from the supplier. Other parents reported that this was less of a concern and fluff comes off with a lint roller. One parent reported that they do not buy the logo jumper, Alex confirmed that this was fine if the right colour.

Alex floated the idea of a more practical uniform, to support the level of physical activity which we expect from children. Parents could see the rationale for this, but were concerned about the flexibility of uniform in this case and if it would look smart enough. One parent raised a concern about the thickness of the PE trousers and how these might make children hotter. This is something the school will look at.

Parent breakfasts

Alex talked through the parent breakfast offer for the term. It is wide ranging and parents agreed it covers lots of topics. One parent highlighted that most are targeted at the lower end of

school and more support with how to help children higher up would be welcome. Parents said this is especially the case in maths, where methods which they do not know are taught - more practical teaching of this would help. Alex agreed to look at this and also online resources to help.

The meeting closed at 9:35 with parents thanked for their attendance and commitment to our school.