

## ST PAULINUS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

As children of God at St Paulinus, we strive to **nurture** the gifts given to us by God so that our school is a happy, caring place where everyone is valued, safe and able to learn and grow.

***“Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them” (Romans 12,6)***

**NURTURE: Knowledge, Curiosity, Resilience, Respect, Spirituality, Creativity & Love**

### PARENT FORUM MEETING

Wednesday 26th June 2024 2pm

#### 1. Present:

Y2 – Mrs Buki Ishola

Y3 – Miss Gemma Daniels

Y4 - Ms Lyndsey Seal

Y6 - Mrs Kelly Clarke

Mrs J Joynes (Chair of Governors)

Mrs Sukonik – Assistant Principal

Mrs Rhodes – Principal

#### 2. Apologies: Y1 - Mrs Rollo

3. The parents were welcomed to the meeting and thanked for their time. The structure and function of Parent forum moving forward was discussed; there will be a change to how the sessions are run and how parents are elected. This will form part of the school’s parent engagement strategy, which is a key part of our improvement plan for next year.

It was clarified that strategic decisions such as term dates are made by the academy with the Trust. The changes to the term dates were talked about and it was explained that the consultation was with staff - it has been fed back to the Trust team that parents felt it was a little unclear. We talked about how the decisions for the term dates will enable the school to use INSET days as twilight sessions over the Autumn and Spring Term which will enable more strategic time for specific training, this is in addition to the reasons already set out in the letter from the CEO. It was agreed by all that parents need to feel like they are on a journey with the school.

#### 4. Parent Items:

##### **Bullying**

Parents were asked for clarification about the incidents brought forward, as the school was not aware of specifics that were mentioned by the class representatives - this was unclear. We talked about the processes that are behind the policies and how the curriculum was used to support pupils' understanding of the term - addressing misconceptions. We told the parents about our application to

become members of the Anti-Bullying Alliance as we feel that our values closely align with theirs, we are awaiting the outcome. We have also booked onto a training session around this in the Summer Term. We are in the process of making revisions to our anti-bullying policy alongside our behaviour policy. The anti-bullying policy is awaiting approval from governors after the suggested revisions.

### **Diversity**

We discussed that there will be a new Curriculum for Reading and Writing - some of the books were available for parent forum to see and were received well in terms of diversity. The PSHE curriculum was spoken about - a parent suggested that more of this information was on the website. There was a discussion around how much information it would be appropriate to share with parents.

**Social Media** came up through the discussion. There was talk about the class pages and how much parents actually use these compared with the time it takes teachers to update their pages. There was also a discussion about the Instagram page and the round-up newsletter.

**Complaints** came up through discussion. There was a suggestion that policies need to be clearer in terms of what happens if parents are not happy with the outcome of an investigation. It was pointed out by one of the parents that the 'who to contact if you feel something has not been resolved' is very clear on newsletters and on the school webpage.

### **OFSTED**

We explained that until the report is out there is not much we are able to share with parents but that we were hopeful that we would receive the final report before the Summer break, which would be then available to all staff and parents. We explained that staff had felt that although the OFSTED process was very thorough, it was also fair and they had been well looked after. We discussed the reasons for the current teacher shortage and why excellent people were leaving the profession, including OFSTED not being a main reason.

### **Staffing for September**

Parental concerns were acknowledged. We clarified that when we place teachers in classes, a lot of the things that parents are concerned about (such as stability, the use of job shares etc) are already taken into consideration at this time. We did also explain that when we place our teachers in classes, we have to look at a whole school picture and equally, we are tied by what staff we have available.

### **SEND Handover**

We explained that it is our intention that all parents of children with SEND will have the opportunity for a meeting with both the current and new teacher before the end of the Summer Term. Where this does not prove to be possible, there will be a handover between teachers this term and then an opportunity for an SEN teacher meeting with these parents early in the new academic year.

### **School Catering**

It was explained that there was a catering contract day early next week that the Principal would be attending.

### **AOB**

### **Trust Survey**

It was felt that there were issues with the timing of this being sent out. Parent feedback was that this was a shame to have been so close to the OFSTED survey and unnecessary due to the OFSTED one. It was explained that this was sent to all schools within the Trust on a scheduled date, which happened to coincide with the inspection. In addition, there was the feeling that parents were unable to guarantee their anonymity in responding and so did not complete the survey, some questions were a little unclear (for example one about training) and there were not always text boxes to explain parents' choices. This has been fed back to the Trust.



**Parking outside School**

A suggestion was made to display the phone number for Bexley council for parents to use if they saw a problem - so they could report issues directly and in a timely manner. It was also suggested that when we write to remind parents, we continue to ask them to be considerate of both the community and other parents and that we also include the phone number in the newsletter.

Parent representatives were thanked for their time and commitment.

**Meeting closed at 3:10pm.**