

Governors Feedback from Parents Evening

Thursday 20th October 2011

I would like to thank the parents who came to speak with us at parent evening, we had some very useful comments.

Comments Included	Action/response
<p>Music lesson in Key stage 1 Two parents were disappointed that the governors had turned down the offer of extending the violin lessons to Key stage 1 children, we are aware this is carried out at other schools but the governors felt that this was not a priority at St Joseph's for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Lessons during the day are disruptive and children at this age find it difficult to settle back into class. ✓ Financial risk to the school, unfortunately we have had a number of parents who have failed to pay for music lessons last year. ✓ Lessons during dinnertime are unfair on the children as they need a break from learning. ✓ Lessons prior to school would extend the day for pupils and staff. 	<p>Review music policy September 2012 – curriculum committee</p>
<p>Parents complimented the school for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Days out – very impressed with the activities on offer at school. ✓ They loved the creative curriculum days ✓ The school masses are very moving ✓ The teachers and staff at the school work extremely hard for the children. ✓ The open approach the school has for dealing with parents, <i>'teachers are happy to talk to parents'</i> ✓ The school keeps us informed and communication is excellent. ✓ Mr O'Hara has introduced some lovely things to the school and should be congratulated. ✓ The children are a credit to the school ✓ The Y6 /FY buddy system is fantastic ✓ Mrs Bailey should be congratulated on the number of after school clubs she runs for the school. ✓ Mr Neenan is an excellent teacher and works tirelessly for the children. 	<p>Inform the staff of these comments</p>
<p>Swimming Coaches We have had a number of issues with the coach company this term, we are looking at alternatives and monitoring the situation. We Apologise, if this has caused any upset to the children.</p>	<p>Head teacher will monitor this situation</p>
<p>Jewellery in School Several parents reported that children were still wearing jewellery in school, can we remind parents:</p> <p>At the Governors meeting (19.09.11) for children's safety and to prevent the loss of valued items, jewellery is not allowed in school. The only exception to this rule is regarding watches which may be worn; however, watches should not be worn on P.E., Games or Swimming days to reduce the possibility of them being lost. Newly pierced ears require six weeks before sleepers can be removed. To avoid situations where children miss P.E. lessons because they cannot remove their ear rings parents should arrange for ears to be pierced at the start of the six week summer holiday and then remove them once this time period has elapsed. Make up is not permitted in school, e.g. nail varnish. This ruling is to be followed with an immediate effect.</p> <p>This rule will now be enforced in the school, children will be asked to remove all jewellery and a letter will be sent home to parents. Repeat offenders parents will be contacted to collect their children and remove the jewellery, to avoid this please ensure your child removes their jewellery before coming to school.</p>	<p>Inform teachers to check children for jewellery in the morning. Follow-up with a letter home Monitor for repeat offenders</p>
<p>Homework: Mental Maths & Amount of Homework Two parents were concerned with the mental maths books which are used for homework, because the work does not reflect what is going on in class. Also, parents were concerned with the amount of homework children received.</p>	<p>Governors reviewed the homework policy during the summer 2011. No published scheme will ever mirror the sequence of teaching within the school- the scheme is an excellent resource to aid parents wishing to support their child's ongoing maths work.</p>

<p>Children Attendance at Parents Evening We would prefer children not to attend parents evening but are aware that this is not possible for all family. Therefore, if your child has to attend can you please make sure they do not run around the school or playground and are supervised.</p>	
<p>School Trips for Christmas Two parents wanted to know if the children would be going on a trip at Christmas. This is currently being organised and Mr O'Hara will let you have the details shortly.</p>	<p>KS1 pupils are going to the Theatre on 8.12.11. We usually arrange a similar trip for KS2 during the Spring term</p>
<p>Girls Wearing Trousers The governors discussed this at the end of last term and agreed that girls will be allowed to wear trousers. However, the trousers must be grey uniform trousers only, please ensure that the trousers are suitable (similar to the boys) for school. If you are unsure please contact the school.</p> <p>Governors apologise for not informing parents earlier.</p>	<p>Other school uniform suppliers are available however: Clive Marks Wylde Green supply plain grey, slightly bootleg trousers for £10.50 up to age 7 £11.00 up to age 11</p>
<p>Compliments, Complaints, Questions and Suggestion Box. We will be placing box/paper/pens in the foyer for parent to give feedback to the school. Comments will be considered at each full governors meeting and replies fed back to parents via Mr O'Hara's newsletter.</p> <p>Please note comments about individual teachers will not be considered and should be dealt with using the appropriate channels...see Complaints Policy on the School Web.</p>	<p>Governors</p>
<p>Hot Drinks in Class From an immediate effect teachers will no longer take hot drinks into classrooms in normal cups. In the interests of health and safety for all, the school will be purchasing safety cups for use within school.</p>	<p>Governors to inform staff of this change.</p>
<p>Parents Evening Timing Several parents complained about the length of time they had to wait to see the teacher. We have tried a number of ways to reduce the wait in the past, bell going off every five minutes etc...</p>	<p>Head teacher to explore holding parents evening on 2 nights 1st night 3.30-5pm 2nd night 6.00pm-7.30pm (Similar to many other schools)</p>
<p>Payments online Two parents wanted to know if we could pay for trips, dinners and music lesson online. This facility is not currently available at St Joseph's school but we are investigating it using parent mail.</p>	<p>Governors/head teach</p>

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their continuing hard work to maintain standards and improve the school environment and a special thanks to the senior management team for excellent leadership of the school. I would also like to thank the governing body who volunteer their time freely.

I would also like to thank the parents for their continuing support of the school, we are facing challenging times ahead with reduction in school budget and changing landscapes but with your support we can strengthen the school further. I appreciate that some parents are not always happy with the decisions the governors take on behalf of the school but we have to consider the school as a whole and not just one activity or one group of children and I thank you for your concerns.

Dr Kirsty Hill, Chair of Governors, Written on behalf of the Governing Body