

Abbey Grange C/E Academy

Minutes of the Parent Council (PC) Meeting 18th July 2016 (postponed from 4th July)

Present: Janet Bove, Marion Kemp, Paul Cooper, Emma Hawker, James Fenton, Stephanie Cassidy, Timothy Jacobs, Katherine Kershaw-Guy

1. **Chair's opening remarks:**

Janet chaired the meeting in Mike's absence, welcomed everyone and thanked members for accommodating the change of meeting date.

2. **Apologies:**

Mike Kemp, Richard Hamlin, Martin Lamb, Jayne Hollick, Susan Field

3. **Minutes and actions from last meeting:**

Minutes checked and approved.

Action – Marion to e-mail members with the confirmed dates for PC meetings for the coming academic year. These will also be available on the school calendar.

4. **Matters arising:**

Paul is still waiting for photographs from some members. **Action – all members** please

E-mail your photograph to Paul prior to our September meeting, if you haven't already done so.

5. **Schools three year plan – Paul Cooper**

Paul updated members about the 3 year plan (2016 – 2019) for Abbey Grange C/E Academy. The framework for the three year plan is based on the vision of providing a 'world class education' and has 10 criteria to be achieved/ aim for. It is broken down into yearly plans, each incorporating the ten criteria, breaking them down further into specific points and areas for achievement. *An example of one such criterion would be around 'teaching and learning' and as one of its more detailed objectives may include 'a culture of reflection for students and staff'.*

Objectives within the plan cover all aspects of school life and as such will be incorporated into the various areas of the school, including subject specific areas. *Here again, an example would be the fact that continued provision for able and talented students is seen as 'essential' within all individual 'subject' plans.*

Other areas covered by the plan are:

- Progress 8 - Attainments target data. Students with a Progress 8 minus score should have support to improve. A progress group and achievement directors meet every 2 weeks to look at progress and reports of students, taking into account data from

progress tracking points. The school has target action planning weeks and targets are set for individual students.

Within sixth form – school aims to hold half termly progress meetings between students and staff.

- Review of pastoral system. School will look at provision needed for more vulnerable students.
- Engage better with 'hard to reach' parents – school will seek P.C. involvement.
- School has international links such as with a school in Ethiopia and these links will continue to be developed.
- More focus on worship and assemblies (this will be easier now school has the second hall).

Further information or a copy of the plan can be requested from the school. School is aiming to print a 'parent friendly' version.

6. Gifted and talented students

Paul updated on this with the following information:

8-10% of students in each subject at Abbey Grange are classed as gifted and talented. For students included in this the student should be aware and parents should receive a letter informing them what school will be offering to the student as a result of this (e.g. further learning or development opportunities).

G. Watson is a new Assistant Principal at Abbey Grange and will be leading on the 'gifted and talented programme' from September.

Paul also mentioned that the school is working towards the NACE (National Association for Able Children in Education) challenge award. Pre-assessment for Abbey Grange Academy will take place in the autumn and the school will either be given advice on areas that still require improvement, or the full assessment will go ahead. If achieved, the school would keep the NACE challenge award for three years, after which it would be reviewed.

7. General school and staffing updates:

Several teaching assistants are leaving at the end of this term and vacancies have not yet been filled. For PC member information – teaching assistants are used by the school to support students with special educational needs and those that require 1:1 supervision.

8. Any other business:

Mobile phones – a parent expressed concern about the theft of a number of mobile phones from students, in particular during P.E. sessions. Suggested the benefit of small lockable lockers for student use during P.E. lessons. **Action – Paul** to discuss the option of secure lockers with the P.E. department.

Staff individual e-mails – this was a parent request to PC at recent parents evening. Parents have reported the benefit of being able to contact teachers direct via e-mail. **Action – Paul**

to look into the possibility of school making e-mail contacts for individual teachers available to parents.

Lunchtime supervision – A year 7 parent had expressed concern about lunchtime supervision and poor behaviour as some students are being ‘pushed’ around. Paul confirmed that teaching assistants and Abbey Managers provide lunchtime supervision, this includes supervision in the galeena room, and such behaviour should therefore be picked up and dealt with as required.

Vivo points – parents questioning the value of this; some negative comments expressed; some parents unsure if students value these. **Action – Paul** to invite member of staff to future meeting to discuss vivo’s/ schools reward system.

Comments in planners – A PC member mentioned that the ‘positive letter to home’ when students have no negative comments in their planner, are not happening. **Action – Paul** to look into this.

9. **Date and time of next meeting:**

Monday 26th September 6.30– 7.30pm Chapter House