

## Welbourne Parents' Forum Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday 24/1/24	Time: 09.30am	Venue Virtual/Online
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Attendees: Mr Lane Head Teacher, A Keogh Minute Taker

King Long Ng, Jahvene Greenaway, Claudine Duberry, Vera Adarska, Anna Grupa, Cassie Edwards Braithewaite, Penelope Lewis, Elif Bozkhan, Dud Dlamini, M Kfle, Layla Qubeera, Ronny Vaske, Justyna Czekaj, Ume Kalsoom, Princess Sinkinson

Welcome Introduction and presentation from the Head Teacher. A reminder of the ground rules for meetings and what the forum is set up to achieve was discussed.

Mr Lane shared that he hopes to be able to share details soon when we might be able to have in person meetings.

Slides from the last meeting were presented, which focused on Educational Visits and Home Learning.

Action Points from the last meeting:

### Educational Visits:

An overview of all trips for the year was presented. These link more directly to the curriculum. All children are now timetabled to undertake at least one visit annually. The school will place greater emphasis on working with local organisations for in-school experiences. These have included the local police, HAF Holiday scheme, and joining of sports leagues. If parents have ideas for local trip opportunities that can be undertaken these would be appreciated.

Cassie Edwards Braithwaite asked about trips for Nursery pupils. Mr Lane agreed these would help Nursery pupils develop independence, and we would be keen to explore these with the help of parents to keep ratios intact.

### Challenging All Pupils:

Mr Lane explained the school focuses on quality first teaching with adaptive practice. The school has looked at opportunities for more able pupils, for instance, participating in the Gladesmore maths challenge shortly. Home learning has also been more closely mapped to the curriculum.

Claudine Duberry

Asked about different learning styles and abilities. She noted there were previously break out groups for gifted and talented pupils and asked if the school can do this. Mr Lane agreed we needed to look at more opportunities for this group, but noted the focus must be on quality first learning for all pupils. We have currently decided to focus on reading as this is the foundation of the whole curriculum.

Anna Grupa

Noted that children are receiving homework but it can lack challenge once mastered. She is concerned there is not enough attention paid to whether children complete their homework, as it is not marked, and there are no rewards for completing or consequences for not completing. She felt that in Year 5 and 6 there should be more importance placed on homework so as to smooth the transition to the secondary homework load.

Mr Lane agreed the importance of matching homework according to a child's ability, and further noted that home learning could be more celebrated. However he is aware that some parents do not agree with home learning and had chosen Welbourne specifically as it did not concentrate on this. He advised that current research shows that homework does not impact pupil progression in primary school.

School Day

Mr Lane advised the school is considering ways of improving the lunchtime experience for all pupils. We do ensure that supervision is well within ratio with a change to our way of lunchtime working we would be able to offer additional supervision. This would enable us to improve pupil engagement and provide additional lunchtime activities. For example, these could be physical or there could be capacity to open the library at lunchtime. On such way would be to offer a 45-minute lunchtime rather than one hour. Typically, an SMSA would be employed for 1.5 hours per day. Shorter lunchtimes would mean they could work with 2-year groups for the duration of lunchtime.

Cassie Edwards Braithwaite

Queried if this could potentially mean extra breaks were needed during the school day.

Princess Sinkinson and Claudine Duberry

Both disagreed with the proposal as they had concerns over meals needing to be hurried. As some pupils this was their only substantial meal of the day they were concerned that this could have an effect on their learning.

Mr Lane stated the new times could be Early Years and Key Stage 1 11.45-12.30 and Key Stage 2 12.30 - 1.15. This would impact on staffing as we currently have to use TA's to cover lunchtime absences and this impacts on classroom provision. Some attendees noted that secondary school have much shorter lunch breaks.

Mr Lane asked if the meeting felt this change was not as good for younger pupils. Mr Lane indicated that having a shorter lunch could lead to a shorter school day. The Department of Education stipulates the school week should be at least 32.5 hours per week including breaks. We also have to consider the directed time of school staff.

If we do make this change it is intended that Breakfast Club and After School Club timing will remain the same, and there will not be an extra charge made for the extra time.

Cassie Edwards Braithwaite

Asked if this will go to the whole school community to discuss. And wondered if it could be trailed in the first instance, as it is an avenue worth exploring to provide better quality lunchtimes.

Mr Lane was adamant that wider consultation would be undertaken, but was concerned about conducting a trial as this could be difficult for many parents to manage the changes.

Claudine Duberry

Enquired how we can be sure to reach all parents as many are not engaged.

Mr Lane responded it can be difficult with harder to reach families but suggested we would translate the proposals to other languages, and the school will be relentless in reaching out to these groups. He suggested that attendees of this meeting also work to increase engagement via the WhatsApp groups.

Penelope Lewis

Wanted to know if the school is contemplating an earlier start to the school day. Mr Lane agreed this could be considered, but the most important thing to consider is the obligation to provide a 32.5 hour week from register to the end of the school day.

There were mixed feelings amongst the group about this proposal and more discussion will be needed.

Princess Sinkinson gave feedback that Year lunches were sometimes cold. This feedback will be given to the Lunchtime staff.

**Future Meetings:**

Cassie Edwards Braithwaite

Feels that in person meetings are needed and will reach more parents. Could these be held after school in a classroom perhaps?

Mr Lane agreed to explore this and set a date for **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 4pm**. This to be confirmed.

Future Meetings Topics suggested:

- RHSE
- Puddings at lunchtime
- Staff of classrooms
- School finish time
- Update on lunchtime proposal
- Children's support

There will a SEND parents forum meeting on 31 January 2024 at 2.30pm to be held in the Children's Centre

**NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2024 VENUE TBA**