

PARENT VOICE MEETING WEDNESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2015

Present: Principal (Mr Wappat), 3 Governors (Mrs Taylor: Chair, Mrs Coleman: Vice-Chair, Mrs McConnell: Parent), 12 parents/carers

Format:

- Welcome & introduction by Chair of Governors
- Brief explanation of the expectations of Governors by OFSTED given by Chair
- Principal highlighted:
 - Significant recent increase in percentages on OFSTED 'Parent View' in 'child feels safe' and 'behaviour' categories at Bydales
 - How to access 'similar schools' information on newly published league tables
 - Place on league tables, as judged against similar schools, of Outwood Academies at Bydales, Acklam and Outwood Grange, with reference to ambitious targets for summer 2015.
- Open forum for questions and comments

Matters raised: *(Italics and underlines show where further action is proposed)*

1. **HMI report – query about Link Governors** – not enough coming in to school.
Mrs Taylor explained to parents' satisfaction (resignations & cover by Governors with other remits – many Governors have now taken on new Portfolios and will be reporting back to Academy Council after regular monitoring visits).
2. **HMI report – why no letter home?**
Principal explained the Conversion to Outwood Academy Bydales had been expected before publication, when Bydales School, in present constitution, would have ceased to exist. Progress was moving on a pace – excellent results predicted on evidence of most recent Praising Stars©. HMI Report reflected whole year 2014- 2015, since going into Special Measures, not just the improvement since Outwood took over. HMI Report available on Bydales web site from publication date: 12.1.15. No further questions from parents/carers.
3. **Number of supply teachers** being used and Outwood had said supply staff would come from their family of schools.
Principal explained this had been done in one case but restructure was going to take place, based on the new expectations and measures by Government (Progress 8) and in meantime appointments could not be made. Teaching and Learning was always closely monitored and supported where necessary.
4. **Homework** – request for more, query about some not being marked, deadlines being moved, some lack of challenge.
Principal explained that improving teaching & learning in class had taken priority but he was now looking at homework and when robust systems were in place he would introduce C4s if homework not produced as required. Care was necessary as, once introduced, a category of C4s would never be withdrawn.
C4s to be introduced when Principal decides it is appropriate
5. **Behaviour** – Are C4s monitored? Principal confirmed they were.
6. **Praising Stars© - on appointments:** request for more availability of appointments for pupils without tick on appropriate box so parents could discuss progress with teachers.

Principal to investigate possibility of making more appointments available.

7. **Praising Stars© - on delivery of reports to parents/carers with cover letter:** general discussion which indicated parents/carers are positive about report format. Principal requested parents/carers to keep email address up-to-date for delivery of copy of covering letter.

Principal to investigate the possibility of delivery of reports by 'Mail Merge'

8. **Praising Stars© - E1 or E2 for effort** – request for clarification of difference – This was explained by Principal.

9. **MyMaths** – (as result of discussion with parents after meeting). Positive feedback on use of MyMaths at home to support student learning. Parent wondered if all parents have sufficient skill and knowledge to use MyMaths to support learning at home.

(Mrs Taylor to email Principal to see if an open tutorial for parents on facilities within MyMaths would be appropriate or feasible.

Actions/ outcomes since last term's meeting to address issues raised:

- ✓ Positive comments on enrichment activities – extra activities, more access
- ✓ Year 7 pupils now coping well with Behaviour System according to parents present – behaviour issues are also discussed & reinforced at home
- ✓ New Marske bus: morning school bus service now provided – working well –has taken some pressure off traffic situation
- ✓ Web site now has copies of letters and these are also sent to parents/carers where email addresses provided
- ✓ School roles and responsibilities of staff & how to communicate with the correct staff member to address problems (plus Chair and Vice-Chair email addresses) now available on web site to all parents/carers. Very positive comments expressed by parents/carers.

Outstanding issues:

1. Use of volunteer parents/carers and students to support pupil learning (Prior Pursglove and other students are looking for voluntary activities to support). (Autumn 2014)
2. Traffic problems will continue to be followed up by Principal. This has been done but there are still concerns. (Autumn 2014)