

Parent Forum Notes
Tuesday 31st January at 6pm
Oakway Academy, NN8 4SD

Present: Felicity Richardson, Anca Dumitru, Kaye Aitken, Claire Byron, Rob Hardcastle, Magdalena Kochilie, Thomas West, Graham Lawman, Lily Hawkins.

Apologies: Claire Iweka, David Johnson, Bogdan Cesauanu and Simon Cross.

Agenda

1. Introduction of all
2. Carry over items including Uniform, school trips and menu selection
3. Chair – new member to be voted in
4. Cost of Living
5. Annual Survey
6. AGM
7. AOB
8. Close

Meeting Notes

Welcome to the Parent Forum

Availability of Chair role was raised and responsibilities explained by KA including how she liaises with the Chair to develop agenda items and discussions before meetings for support. To receive details of the role or to put your name forward, to email on forum@hattonacademiestrust.org.uk

School uniform and trips

The plan of a “consistent offer” was introduced which would allow students eligible for PPG to access subsidised trips and uniform. This would be the same across all Trust schools and the aim is to roll out in September 2023. Gaining parents views on the best way to support families would be required to ensure as many points as possible are considered.

It was raised that schools have an opportunity to provide parents struggling with the cost of living, a variety of resources available in the local community such as warm spaces, supermarket donations of food and uniform giveaways. The parent forum could share this information centrally in a variety of ways to ensure all parents can see what is available.

Oakway Academy confirmed that PPG students are given washed uniform individually where required and also PPG information is included on letters to parents regarding trips. This is to encourage parents to speak to the school if they are

struggling and that discounts are available. It is really important that cost is not a barrier to students attending important aspects of their education such as trips.

A parent raised that they are unable to consistently send their child on trips as demand is too high and if they don't get a space, there is no or very little care. There is more care in primary settings.

RH has confirmed they are looking at starting a fair ballot scheme at SCHA to register interest and then fairly distribute to students throughout trips during the year ensuring those eligible for PPG are given an opportunity. **This has now been started following discussion the last Parent Forum meeting - one trip has requested expressions of interest prior to receiving deposits.**

It was suggested that schools could send all the upcoming trips planned at the beginning of the academic year so parents know what to expect and can budget. A savings pot attached the Pay 360 account and £5 minimum spend was also raised. **The finance dept. have confirmed that this is not a function of Pay 360 and Evolve is the system used to obtain funds for trips – the £5 minimum is pre-arranged with the third party contractor.**

Cooking

Currently all ingredients are purchased by parents which creates a high cost and organisation, a parent raised about the schools providing ingredients like the primary's do. Could schools organise a central budget to cover the cost of consumables over the year i.e. £20 contribution and support for those who can't provide this. It can be difficult for students to carry the ingredients if cycling in etc and also means there is a lot of waste with ingredients not regularly used at home.

Similarly could scientific calculators at SCHA be bought in bulk to ease the cost and everyone ordering individually at higher prices.

A parent reviewed their support received at Oakway Academy and stated they are very happy with the arrangements where food is provided for cooking.

Parent Forum Annual Survey

Questions will be sent out to all parents across the Trust to get feedback from the Parent Forum as opposed to being academy-led. These will be shared using a short survey link to each parent's email account and responses collated by the Parent Forum.

AOB - Toilet Queues

The current policy for toilet use has changed at SCHA following vandalism in toilets. It was raised that this was not communicated initially to parents whereas they could have gained support in addressing behaviour from home by parents. A complaint was made directly to the school as several parents are being told by their children they are not able to use a toilet all day. They are restricted by queues during break times and are either too far away from an accessible toilet or they do not have time before their next lesson. They are not allowed to use the toilet during lesson time. Students are letting parents know that they are feeling upset by this but as they have

had no communication from the school, they are emailing to ask for clarification. This is being addressed by phonecalls however the original complaint is not being heard. Some parents are not aware at all of the change and those that are feel unheard. It was requested that those with an issue around toilet policy are updated.

Response from SCHA – moving forwards changes to procedures and the reason for those changes will be shared so that parents are informed wherever possible. All staff have been informed and understand they should not deny any child the opportunity to go to the toilet at break or lunch time when they need to go. There is an understanding that the restrictions will be eased off over time if the damage caused to the toilets decreases.

AOB - Mobile Phone policies

These were originally changed to a ban but no action followed. This policy will be put into place by the end of the academic year.

Annual General Meeting

To take place on April 25th – venue to be confirmed. Suggestions to review the annual survey results and appoint a chair to the Forum.