

Parent Forum Agenda
Tuesday 28th January at 6pm
Ecton Village Primary Academy

1. Introductions and apologies
2. Parent survey discussion including how the Trust supports with an unresolved concern and how schools use the feedback parents provide?
3. Absences including health issues.
4. Sen support group.
5. White paper (including uniform and admissions)
6. Upcoming AGM.
7. AOB

Notes

Present: Rob Hardcastle, Kate Cleaver, Jo Austen, Claire Byron, Luke Ward, Nick Salisbury, Lily Hawkins, Christine Glover, Heidi Overfield, Jess Booth and Phil Booth.

Apologies: Gemma Rogers, Deborah Thompson, Yury Saginov and Francisco Navaz

RH introduced the purpose of the Parent Forum to new attendees and introductions were made by all.

Parent survey - discussed how the trust supports with an unresolved concern and feedback. RH outlined the procedure expected following a complaint is received including what to do in case parents are not happy with a response once an issue was raised.

Each school discussed how they use feedback such as Oakway; after understanding Year 3 students were nervous to use a certain toilet block, a refurb was commissioned to make it more accessible and removing overly loud hand dryers. This was a direct result of a survey. Ecton have used surveys based on the Ofsted framework around satisfaction of the child's education which can be based against previous years to ensure consistency or highlight if there are any dips. A more practical measure has been introducing homework books as opposed to Class Dojo – a homework software which wasn't always engaged with. This change led to an uptick of homework completed so that 100% of students were handing in their

completed books each week. SCHA have responded to feedback by continuing with online parent sessions on parents evenings and rewards ceremonies for parents to see what their children have achieved.

Absence – topic carried over following the last meeting. RH raised that schools are legally bound to report absences if there are more than 10 sessions in one consecutive period of six weeks. Repeated illnesses require a GP note though where possible, it is deemed that parents are the best judge regarding the need to keep their child off school.

SEN – The support group for parents of SEN children ran last year though due to low attendance this has not been continued. Raised that there may be more success if run in schools where there are familiar locations and promotion.

DfE White Paper – this is a proposed schools bill which will be implemented by the Labour government from September 2026.

One point specifies that all primary children will be able to attend a breakfast club from 8.15am each day and will have access to food. Oakway Academy is registered as an 'Early Adopter' which will mean significant effort to implement including potentially changing the school times and primary catering taking on the new demand.

A second point is around uniform to alleviate the cost expected for parents to spend by reducing the branded uniform students have to wear. Primaries will only need to provide three items with a logo and secondaries will need to provide four (if a tie is part of the uniform). This will include PE kits. Our primaries already have plain options available for parents to buy.

AOB – a parent raised that a PTA at EVPA would be really welcomed to support the school and although Kate is aware that it would be a great provision, the time and effort this would take would need a lot of planning though it 'is not off the table'. To get more information and feedback to parents.

Stay and Play was also brought up as although it ends in Year 1, parents would love to have an occasional session booked in as it is such a lovely thing to offer. Kate has agreed to this – further information to follow.

After school clubs discussed – Kate to get a timetable of activities so children can opt into their favourite sessions. New plan explained that there will soon be three after school club leaders, one for KS1, one for KS2 and one to organise non-sporty sessions for those children interested in other activities ie craft. Food also to be detailed to ensure children have an option to eat. This will be reviewed in the next meeting.

School based music lessons discussed – KS2 teacher provides music lessons and perimusic lessons are also available to pay for privately. NMPAT discussed at Sr Christopher Hatton Academy.

Next Parent Forum is the AGM – venue and date to be confirmed.