

# Stedham Primary School

## Parents' Forum

### 22 June 2017

Twice a year the school community is invited to meet together to talk about how we can strengthen our school.

At today's meeting, four families were represented. The school staff were represented by Mrs Dreckmann and Mrs Dinnis-Searle and the Governing Body was represented by Neil Ryder and Helen Saelensminde.

We keep a record of what we talked about: if you have any comments or suggestions please let us know, or come along to the next Forum session.

Topic discussed	Questions put forward and what we are going to do...
Mr Ryder gave a short presentation to summarise the work of the Governing Body and some headlines from the Parent Survey – see PowerPoint Presentation.	
<i>I am still not happy with the school uniform standards in school. What are the Governing Body going to do about it?</i>	<p>A discussion followed about uniform and how it could be enforced. It was suggested a reminder be sent out about what children should be wearing.</p> <p>It was noted that everyone signs the Home-School Agreement which includes the undertaking to ensure children come to school in correct uniform.</p> <p>One parent raised the point that uniform is linked to behaviour and when wearing it, children are representing the school.</p> <p>It was suggested that if children come to school in incorrect uniform, they are given items of uniform by the school to change into for the day. FOSS suggested they provide the spare uniform.</p> <p>It was also raised that some of the Foxes girls are wearing makeup such as foundation and mascara – it was suggested that if it is noticed that children wear makeup (to date it has not been), they are given a wipe to remove it.</p> <p>There was a discussion about nail varnish and parents present said this should be taken off by the child at school too.</p> <p>Jewellery is being worn – parents asked for others to be reminded that children should wear a stud earring only, and no other jewellery.</p> <p>Shoes were also a concern – they should be shoes not trainers (and some parents did not feel boots should be allowed) and dark colour only. It was acknowledged that we can't keep spare shoes so parents of children with incorrect shoes should be contacted to discuss the matter. FOSS also offered to award a bursary to any family who were unable to buy school shoes due to financial constraints.</p> <p>The fact that some children wore black skirts was raised because the prospectus says grey (<i>it was subsequently found that the website does say black skirts and so they are permitted and the 2017-18 prospectus will be updated to reflect this</i>).</p>

	<p>PE kit was also mentioned – it was felt by parents present that we should only let children wear the blue PE shirts, not white shirts. While we can stipulate royal blue, we can't <u>make</u> parents buy the school's logo PE shirt.</p> <p><b>There were obviously strong feelings at the meeting but there were only five families represented and so it has been decided by the Governing Body that a Parent Focus Group should be run to discuss Uniform (and Behaviour) and some of the ideas offered tonight can be further discussed to gauge the thoughts of people across the whole school community. This Parent Focus Group meeting is on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 3.30pm.</b></p>
<p><i>Can we do more to encourage, reward and praise?</i></p>	<p>We as a staff are currently reviewing the whole of our current practices; we have begun by clamping down on the low level disruptive behaviour, improving the walking bus and changing the way lunch play is ended. There are lots of other actions on our list to tackle into the next term and one of them is to review the current rewards systems. One of the current systems is the Star Book, and while we do still award certificates each week, there are less than 4 or 5 years ago when we first started – maybe it is time to put this to bed and develop a new system.</p> <p>We talked about ideas we had heard of in other schools such as Praise postcards, written by the teacher or another child to a child to thank or congratulate them on something positive. It was also suggested a letter could go out each week to celebrate those commended, or it could be put in the newsletter. These are all ideas we will bear in mind when we are discussing and deciding what to do.</p> <p>Another idea was to put in place a 'worry box' for children to post concerns they have, and also a 'smile box' where positive comments can be left – these could also go in a letter or newsletter each week.</p> <p>Work on this area of school improvement will continue in the Autumn Term and parents will be updated once decisions are made.</p>

**Next Parents' Forum: TBC in September**