

Minutes from school council meeting held on Wednesday 6th April 2022

Pupils in attendance – DSm, CHa, LNe, RHu, CPri, ROx, CAB, JEv, KKa, JHa, RLe

Staff in attendance – BBa, JHa, MHa

Governors – Parent Governor STho

Apologies – RPe (due to PE) LCI (was due his 1st meeting but they were on O&A)

Agenda (actions in red)

Welcome – As always, can I take the opportunity to thank the School Ambassadors for their time and conducting themselves in a professional manner. Their thoughts, opinions and voice are a vital part of Elmwood school.

We had the privilege to host one of our Parent Governors today STho, who joins us to see how our school council works, and to ask a few questions about how as a school pupils feel that mental health and well-being is supported for both pupils and staff. We are also Joined by staff member MHa who will discuss his observations from group discussions.

Previous actions

Group Discussions – It was previously discussed at school council by school ambassadors that they felt group discussions were inconsistent across the school. An action was set for MHa to observe group discussions across Transition and Pathways bases. MHa fed back his observations to School Council stating that he and LCr had been observing group discussions across the school and agree with school council that it is inconsistent. To make sure that group discussions are consistent throughout the school, additional training on Team Teach training days to upskill staff on check-ins and group discussions has been organised, this will then bring consistency across the school.

Group Discussions – Single Agenda item – V4S's

This has improved for the majority; RPe/CPri still don't fully enjoy but understand the purpose. JHa still feels that his class find it difficult as they can mess about due to other circumstances that have occurred outside of school

Study Leave – KKa, RHu and CHa asked if there was going to be study leave? They also asked if there would be extra lessons during study leave and could they come into school for extra lessons during this time period? (KS4 Maths revision sessions occurred after school and has been positive for the boys that attended. LCr/GFra to share timetable once created)

Transition Quad – PCr has filled in the trip hazard

Today's Agenda

Reading Material - There are now lots of new books available in the library. RLe asked if they could have the reading trolley back that used to go to each class? (CCI/CBo)

Parent Governor-

STho kindly introduced herself to the group and her role as parent Governor. STho had been asked to scrutinise staff and pupil mental well-being. STho had some questions to ask;

- Does the school support the mental well-being of staff and pupils?

RLe said that teachers and TA'S help us. RLe felt that TA's mostly have a closer connection with pupils than Teachers who support them.

KKa stated that staff have a wider and different skill set than mainstream which gives them a greater ability to support us.

ChHa stated that we have feel good Friday which supports well being.

RHu said that he recently received support from Sally at Swing to support his mental health after a bereavement.

- How do you feel you coped during COVID-19?

The school council stated that POD LIFE was great, it was nice to be in school. DSmi stated that he hated online work and didn't do a lot of it. **KKA asked why did we not have live lessons?** It was shared with KKa that work was provided on the school website; remote learning was difficult for some of our pupils and parents reported that it became an area of conflict. We did ensure visits were carried out every 10 days for every pupil and dependent upon need there were some pupils who were seen 3 times per wk with a structured activity. As soon as parents felt it was safe for their child to attend school we then returned to learning on site.

- Does the school listen to you?

All of school council said yes. STho said this was evident while sitting there with the school council.

Plan-a-day Friday – The school council all agreed that this was positive but some asked if they could have the option to choose to take part in this or to continue with enrichment activities. CHa and KKa said that although they can see the purpose of some of the events that were planned such as travel training, they felt that because they were already confident on public transport it wasn't relevant for them.

A.O.B

LHu had brought the issue of **school uniform** to school council. She feels that it is not fair that not all pupils are wearing uniform but also that some pupils are able to achieve 7's. Pupils should not be able to achieve 7's in class if they aren't in correct uniform as they should have lost 1 point off co-operation for every lesson they are in.

BBa explained that uniform will be a focus on the return from the summer break however will share with all staff about the loss of 1 point. (BBa)

School Dinners – Timings that the school lunch trolley is brought down is not consistent; sometimes it's early or sometimes it's late – RLe suggested that a pupil could deliver the lunch trolleys at a specified time. (LMar – thoughts?)

Next meeting date will be arranged during the next half term.