

## Minutes from school council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Pupils in attendance – , RPe, CPr, EBi, LNe, JEva, TLA, RCa, BHop. RKe, MGr

Apologies - MGr, ELe, PWa

Staff in attendance – BBa,

Governors – N/A

### Agenda (actions in red)

**Welcome – Ambassadors** ELe will join our next meeting.

#### Previous actions

**ICT** – At the last meeting 18.12.24, the ambassadors were about the change over from Walsall traded service to Wolverhampton. CPr is extremely frustrated about how long a word and other programmes are taking to load.

**Suggestion** – he asked if staff could turn computers on before lessons however, they could ask pupils to do this.

#### Today's Agenda

**Attendance** - BB recapped the importance of attendance as this is a running agenda item

**Staffing** – BB thanked ambassadors for their support with interviews – this led on to a conversation about staff.

MG said that he feels most of Elmwood staff support with emotions but some of the newer staff tell him to do something different when he is not regulated. I explained that most staff received training some time ago around trauma informed practice; **this will continue at some point during training with new staff too. BB is also picking up language to modify. Eg – a young person is being naughty changed to; they are off baseline.**

**EB** said he did not venture into nurture much but when he has, he felt that some of the new staff are strict with instruction, but he noted that the emotion coaching was used less. He was not able to identify staff members as he said he does not know them well enough. He did however feel that some of the new staff would be ideal in upper school with this approach as the pupils can regulate.

**Timetable:** **Mrs Francis and Mr Cross to ensure staff pairing supports good practice where all staff can pick up good practice from others, whether new or existing as many staff have practice that others can learn from.**

**PE** – **Pupils discussed PE but due to the sensitivity of the discussion; it will not be included in the minutes but has been shared with the senior leadership team.**

#### Mixed Group Teaching

**RP, CP, EB** are missing the cross-school break times. They all miss the older boys as they were interested in football. They have asked that some of the younger pupils are encouraged to come and play football with them at break/lunch times. Also, can they have more interhouse championships?

Mr Hawkes to look into this.

### **Field- Health & Safety**

RKe mentioned the litter on the fields and the poo bags that are being left around. He and Mr Hawkes did a litter pick some time ago, but he has noticed it continues to be messy.

### **Agenda item from Mr Cross**

Bev, I will be representing Special School Headteachers at Walsall's "Making School Belonging a reality in Walsall" in April and I am interested in the views of pupils on the following statements / questions.

- What does belonging mean to you? (is it a good feeling; who are the pupils who are on the "outside"; can they imagine a time when they didn't feel a belonging to a school – how did this feel) **RP, welcomed, supported, accepted. EBi, I feel supported at Elmwood but when I was at Rosedale, I felt staff could not manage my behaviour and I felt I did not have a good experience. Every ambassador said they cared for by the staff at Elmwood School. EB felt that during covid, he lost some of the transition into Elmwood, but he appreciated staff visiting the home every week or so.**
- Why is belonging important? (think specifically about school and what a sense of belonging can mean to you?) **It is a place you want to come to (LN)**
- How do you think Elmwood could grow a sense of belonging? (what would you do differently) **There were no additional comments made.**

### **Dawn – Do pupils want to be Under the Spotlight in the Newsletter?**

EB, MGr, RPe, BHo, CPr were not aware of a newsletter.

CPr felt the Elmwood Champion Cup celebrates pupils and enjoys this.

RP was worried it may lead to jealousy.

Vote – 6 in favour, 4 disagreed.

It was agreed to go out as a trial. Suggestion of names in a box, when they have been chosen, the name is put aside; pupil has the right to decline.