

Minutes from school council meeting held on 18th December 2023

Pupils in attendance – , RPe, CPr, EBi, MGo, LNe, JEva, , DSm, RCa, DPa, PWa, BHo.

Apologies - MGr, RKe, TLA

Staff in attendance – BBa,

Governors – N/A

Agenda (actions in red)

Welcome – Ambassadors RCa asked to join our School Council. EBir, CPr, RPe and LNe all spoke about expectations such as listening to each other, respecting each other's opinions, waiting for someone to finish what they are saying as talking over someone else is not helpful.

It was also pleasing to see JEva return to council.

Action: - Dawn, can you provide photos of RCab, EBi and JEva for the school council board?

Previous actions

Health & Safety. – BB updated regards the tennis court fence - netting has been added. The gate leading onto the school playing field has been repaired.

ICT – BB praised the pupils for their patience and explained that SLT believed the cloud would have rectified many of the problems, however this has not been the case. Internet continues to go down and this impacts upon their lessons. BB explained the plan moving forward; change in service provider and internet works being carried out. Expense is significant.

Today's Agenda

Safeguarding

Online Safety – BB asked ambassadors if they were aware of the online safety changes which were added to the KCSIE 23'.

LNe asked if it was around facial recognition to prove age especially linked to adult sites. This allowed a discussion on face recognition and how it works.

JEva discussed online monitoring and he used the example of being challenged regards an inappropriate word. BB explained how the monitoring works and how the filtering works which is different. PWa, MGo, LNe, RPe, all spoke about being challenged about something typed and on occasions it was linked to PSHE content. BB was then able to talk about monitoring and how it has layers. This can be checked by looking at the content of the lesson; it is helpful to have the alerts in real time as it becomes an accurate reflection and supports safeguarding for pupils both in and out of school.

RPe explained that he understands why we filter but did state that he has difficulty in some lessons due to sites being blocked. BB asked RP to share with her any sites that he feels would be necessary to support his learning; this can then be discussed.

CPr asked why YouTube is not allowed for pupils. I asked members if they can answer this – RP asked if it is linked to age restrictions and inappropriate content.

PW contributed to the discussion; other ambassadors showed patience as PW spoke for some time.

Social networking sites have a responsibility to take inappropriate content down quickly, greater emphasis on filtering and monitoring, greater sentences to those who pose harm to children online, provide clear reporting mechanisms,

Mr Hawkes asked about school leaders – he has school leaders in PE, we have school ambassadors. Can they think of any other ways to show leadership?

RP – **Learning leaders/curriculum leader/buddy leader**; he gave example of struggling in Maths, CPr will support him with his work, and he is appreciative of this.

PW also said RSh does this for pupils in his class.

Sports Leaders – CPr said that we miss SOc and RHum as the older pupils now do not have the same enthusiasm for football (this was the example). He said he feels that pupils in Year 7 do not have the same enthusiasm for football as they do not have the role models of those enthused by a particular sport. He is wanting to be that leader with enthusiasm but feels it is lacking.

LN then stated that pupils do not interact outside; he would like the opportunity to go out somewhere other than his quad as this restricts interaction. I said that I was surprised by his comment as his class have enjoyed being within their individual space. He still felt this was limiting and supports what CPr is saying.

Mentoring

Mr Hawkes delivered training during health and safety days specific to mentoring.

Feedback from pupils:

RCa – at first RCa said his class do not do mentoring but changed this after it was described by others. I also clarified with Miss Askins as they both stated they had not called it mentoring until last week.

RCa – spoke about points and discuss how the week has been.

PW – we highlight 5 and above, anything below a 4; we look at how we can be 1% better. We have 3 main targets. He stated he always loses 1 off co-operation in PE which he needs to work on

MGo/BHo - we discuss our graphs and this allows a discussion.

LNe – our focus is usually on our week and in particular, our emotions and also something we are challenged by. This helps to put something in place to prevent it from happening again. We are able to discuss some things as a class. Our learning is discussed daily and is not always the focus of mentoring. Mentoring is personalised to each of us. LLNe prefers this as he feels his class benefit from it.

Dsm – look at points 5 and above and anything below 4. Discuss targets for the coming week

DPa – he did not know what mentoring was as he was not listening in his class at the time. RP stated that he can report back after he has listened next time.

RP – we always run through our week and discuss how we can improve

Elmwood Journey

BB asked CPr if I was allowed to share his Elmwood journey specifically around managing his emotions as we discussed conflict resolution. BB explained that conflict is healthy if it is resolved, ongoing conflict that goes over the same thing again and again and is poorly resolved is not healthy. BB gave examples of poorly resolved conflict which pupils may hear. Explained why we are supporting pupils to become adults with a skill to resolve conflict.

CPr, EB, RPe, explained how conflict resolution works in school; BBa also shared that they may hear the term FFA.

Attendance – Mr Cross asked this to be on the agenda each time.

- How does pupil attendance impact on your class (academic progress and social and emotional development)?
- How can we as a pupil body support better attendance for this cohort?

Question 1 was the reason we discussed the journey of CPr as he said he could not manage emotions when he first started at Elmwood School. Attending every day has helped him regulate his emotions with the support of staff and to feel confident in his learning. He is able to support other pupils in his class.

RP – I feel those who do not attend let the class down as this impacts upon our class overall attendance percentage, stated the reputation of the class is then poor. They also fall behind with their learning. He also stated that he has noted that socially he has seen someone in another group being unable to socialise since they have been absent for a period of time.

BHo – asked if someone who is absent can take work home.

Give them work to take home, give examples of pupils who have developed due to being in school.

Next meeting will be in January 24.