

Minutes from school council meeting held on 24th May 2024

Pupils in attendance – , RPe, EBi, JEva, TLA, BHop. RKe, MGr, MJe, PWa,

Apologies – LNe (bringing onle 2 from his class each time, CPri (will rejoin next half term)
RCa (absent) MGo (absent)

Staff in attendance – BBa,

Governors – N/A

Agenda (actions in red)

Welcome – Ambassadors MJe attended her first council 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.

This class are the only ones who are still reporting slow computers. BB will put in a ticket for this class;

Other ambassadors are happy that the problems on the computers are being addressed quickly and they have seen the presence of the gentlemen in school.

Staffing – 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.

Mrs Francis has facilitated TA working across departments and with staff who have difference skillsets; September timetable has addressed this.

PE – Pupils discussed PE at the last meeting 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.

All but PW class reported positive PE lessons recently, PW did say that some pupils in his class do not always engage but this is reflected in points and discussion and is dealt with appropriately.

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?

This was facilitated however the fierce competitiveness of some pupils in 10's has meant it has not been successful as they fall out with each other. Great discussion had with EB and RP alongside MGr.

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

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.

TLA and JEv shared with pupils that LN was under the spotlight, MG also shared his experience. BB read out LN comments; the ambassadors smiled and discussed his comments.

Today's agenda

New Staff

Those ambassadors that interviewed Sarah Lock and Ben Micklewright were excited to talk about why they had chosen them.

Mr O'Callaghan

TLA shared that his skill to engage pupils in drama who usually withdraw was awesome to witness; RP said he is an excellent addition into the school; EB enjoys his presence and feels he is a wonderful addition to the school. PW & MJe said his lessons have been fun. Described as no nonsense, has a humour but is fair.

Pupil Request

RP felt some pupils use a pupil request as an excuse to miss work; BB asked if the points reflect; he said yes. BB gave example of a young person being so full of emotion that they are not ready to learn, and time out will be recorded and every 30 days the pupils request will be revisited. Is it successful? How do we know? BB spoke about the importance of listening and problem solving. RP then spoke about people in prison, if they are not educated; how can they change? BB spoke about overcoming problems and this comes from the ability to regulate, to talk through and to problem solve. Pupil request and emotion coaching supports this.

Time outside

MGr spoke about he and another pupil doing something wrong; he said as a result, other pupils had lost their time outside as staff told them to stay in; RPe asked if this was due to the time left or staffing shortage. MGr did not believe it to be any of those.

BB to check with staff.

A sense of fairness

MGr and PWa used this meeting to voice their perceived sense of unfairness with regards other pupils. MGr spoke about a pupil in his class who reads outside of the classroom; he said he asked to do the same, and he was told no; he said he would like to do this sometimes as he gets frustrated when others read slow. Discussion was had with ambassadors of reasons why they may go outside to read.

Build confidence, support resilience, additional support.

BB has highlighted his voice to the staffing team but with no expectation for change.

BHo said he would like to go outside with his classmates and read as they enjoy the quad area.

Attendance

PW spoke about a young person who is not in school every day but only then having to catchup in reparation which is not equivalent to the number of hours lost.

BB explained that him being in school allows for some great opportunities both academically and socially; he explained that he would like to see the other young person receiving a greater punishment. BB asked how that would help the young person to feel loved, cared for, valued. Also, for them to reflect why some pupils may not be in school.

I then highlighted that some things are out of the control of a young person, but our attendance procedures continue to run in the background which he would not be aware of.

BB asked PW and MJ to make the young person feel welcomed.

Morning routine

EB wakes up early every day to take his dog on a walk; he said this supports his health and well-being and he feels every young person who is in school should start their day with fresh air. Ambassadors agreed that being outdoors is important and DSm voiced this strongly. BB told DS that she was surprised as his class are always on the computers. He said he knows but he feels his class would not go out if he asked them.

BB explained the reason for activities after checking in; how staff are using this is dependent upon the class dynamics/interests.

Mr Cross – ambassadors felt a structured time outside for those pupils who want it would be nice. This could be offered across base??

Play therapy

TLA shared that the cabin is not always the best place to have play therapy as the balls are often kicked against the cabin

Is there another space?

There was not enough time to continue due to break but ambassadors would like to come back early in Summer Term 2.