

## **Parental Engagement Person (PEP) Meeting**

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 2:30pm-3:30pm**

### **Attendees**

Ellie Linton (EL)- Communications & Marketing Manager

Sarah Greenway (SG)- Parental Links SIP Lead

Myriam Joly- PEP for FS2SR

Judith Foxton- PEP for FS2FW

Asma Khan- PEP for 1HC

Magdalena Haener- PEP for 1LT

Toni Pemberton- PEP for 2JD

Christos Papageorgiou- PEP for 2SH

Kate Cocker- PEP for 3SG

Michelle Dennell- PEP for 4LM

Swifty Bell- PEP for 4SM

Geraldine Garrabet- PEP for 4JB

Rasheeda Kholwadia- PEP for 5WM

Helen Manning- PEP for 5PS

Lesley Mullen- PEP for 5CD

Annabel Newfield- PEP for 6CK

### **Minutes**

1. PEPs were asked to introduce themselves and say how many children they have at the school and in which yeargroup(s).
2. EL reminded PEPs of what the role entails- promoting inclusion and encouraging other parents in their child's class to come to school events. Reminder that the role does not mean that the PEPs are a listening ear for other parents to pass on their concerns. Any concerns are to go to [inbox@oswaldroad.manchester.sch.uk](mailto:inbox@oswaldroad.manchester.sch.uk).
3. EL mentioned that Parents Evening was coming up later this month, and asked PEPs to suggest how attendance at parents evenings could be increased.
4. One parent suggested that teachers could follow up parents evening appointments with telephone calls home, so that any issues that were discussed at parents evening can be updated on.
5. Another parent suggested it might be useful to send a text reminder out to parents a couple of days before parents evening.
6. Parents who have more than one child at school said that they would like it if there was an option to ensure that all their appointments were put within short space of time in one

evening so that they were not required to hang around for a long time between appointments, or come back on both nights. It was suggested that maybe parents could have the option to indicate on their reply slip that their child has siblings and in which class so that teachers could coordinate.

7. One parent said that she had an experience with one teacher where she didn't receive useful feedback and therefore felt that in this case the meeting wasn't worthwhile.
8. Parents shared concerns over confidentiality because more than one teacher is stationed in each classroom on parents evening.
9. It was suggested that parents would feel more involved if they were given the opportunity to 'drop in' to their child's teacher on a regular basis (eg. once a month) to share any concerns and to follow up on what was discussed at parents evening.
10. This follows on from concerns that some parents have because they are not allowed to go into class to speak to their child's teacher in the morning. One parent said that she did not think that all messages that she left with the office in the morning were being relayed to the teacher, so she did not feel confident in communicating with the teacher in this way. Another parents suggested that it may be better if teachers came into the playground earlier in the morning so that they could stay out there for 10 mins or so to deal with any parent queries.
11. EL mentioned the upcoming Ceilidh, which is being organised by the PTA and will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> March. EL asked for ideas on how we can improve attendance at PTA events, and asked for a show of hands as to how many PEPs do attend PTA events (roughly half).
12. One parent said that it would really help encourage parents to come to PTA events if more staff attended, as there are often very few teachers/members of staff at the events.
13. Another parent suggested promoting the FORS Facebook and Twitter pages more so that people can interact more with the PTA on social media.
14. It was suggested that parents may be more likely to attend if the teachers promoted them in class, as this would make the children more enthusiastic about attending, which would encourage more parents to come along.
15. Parents suggested that cost may be a factor that is stopping people from coming to PTA events. It was suggested that the events could be free to attend, and then the fundraising was done at the actual event, so that people could attend to meet other parents without the cost commitment.
16. SG discussed plans for World Book Day, and asked parents to promote the Oswald Road 2017 Reading Challenge amongst the parents in their class. The class that reads the most books collectively will win a special prize.
17. EL asked if PEPs had any ideas on how to increase sense of parent community in their classes. One parent said that she was not on Facebook so was not a member of her class' parent Facebook group. She suggested having a Whatsapp group so that parents could share upcoming events and organise social gatherings, as this would mean that parents who do not have Facebook could also join in.
18. One idea to encourage more socialisation amongst parents was to have class assemblies closer to the end of the school day so that parents could hang around afterwards to mingle with each other in a school environment. This would be good for less outgoing parents who may not have the confidence to go to a social occasion with other parents outside of school.