

Academy Council Minutes 08/11/19

Present: Kevin Jones (Principal), Councillors: Dawud, Rita, Mizanur + 3 parents/carers

SRE consultation

New Sex and Relationships guidance will become statutory in all primary and secondary schools in September 2020. The Trust has written a new draft SRE policy which will go out to consultation this year.

Dates outlined for consultation. There will be an initial meeting involving the Academy councils of the 3 London schools, followed by a general meeting in each school outlining the new guidance and legal framework and presenting the proposed policy. There will then be a one month consultation and engagement process where submissions can be made to the Trust. This will be completed by April next year and feedback given to the Trust board. Parents/carers will be informed of the outcome of the consultation by the end of July.

In the meantime, our established SRE and PSHE programme will continue. As in previous years, we will hold information meetings in each year group before any material is taught. Academy council members requested more time in these meetings to discuss issues and to look at materials. The Principal will also attend all meetings to be on hand to answer any questions.

Feedback on class changes

From September 2019, pupils at OFPA are organised in mixed ability classes. (Mathematics and ReadWrite Inc. phonics is still taught in ability groups)

Some negative feedback on the new arrangements has come from some parents/carers. This is from parents of formerly 'green' class pupils who are concerned they are not being stretched in the new arrangements. There is also some concern that homework may be too easy.

Kevin agreed to hold meeting explaining the school's rationale behind the new arrangements and showing how we teach to cater for the different abilities. This will take place on 2.45pm on Monday 2nd December.

How to communicate to the school/ Academy Council members?

Some parents/carers thought that some would not know how to reach Academy Council members or how to give feedback to the school.

There is a coffee morning every Thursday morning in the extended schools room. The school Home School Support Worker (Shabina) attends and can feedback to school. Academy Council members also attend when available. Academy council photographs will also appear in the newsletter so parents know who to approach. Dates for Academy Council meetings are regularly in the newsletter and reminder

texts are sent out. All parents/carers are invited to all meetings and this is the ideal place for them to raise concerns. Attendance at recent meetings has been low and it would be good to see greater representation at these meetings.

The school will also be holding a parent/carer feedback forum before Christmas at which parents/carers can feedback on what they like and want to see improved at the school. They will also have the opportunity to complete the Ofsted 'Parent View' questionnaire. This will take place after school in the ground floor hall on **Wednesday 20th November**.

Any parent/carer who wants to speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team or a particular teacher can make an appointment through the administration office or email the school at **info@oldfordacademy.org**

Parents/carers would also like more notice of educational visits, particularly those with a cost so that they can budget for these.

End of term rewards for 100% attendance

This year, to improve attendance, we have half termly attendance prizes rather than just having one prize for 100% attendance at the end of the year. This came from a suggestion at an Academy Council meeting last year and means that more pupils have a chance of getting an attendance reward.

Some parents/carers were concerned about the video game attendance prize at the end of last half term. Some parents/carers are apparently saving up to buy their child a device to bring to this session! Kevin explained that this is a reward and pupils do not have to bring anything to school as we will also have school laptops for pupils to use. It is stressed to pupils that this is a reward. We agree that some children already spend too much time on computers, however this is a special reward, for an hour and a half at the end of term. It has had a huge impact on the pupils' attendance and last half term we were almost 97% across the school! We will only be having this prize for one more half term. We will then have a choice of films as prizes and trips to the park with ice cream once the weather is warmer.

School photos

A question was raised as to why siblings can't have photographs taken together. Next year we will speak to the photography company and arrange a time for siblings to be photographed together.

Retired HMI visit

Kevin reported that this annual visit had gone very well for the school and that he would send out a summary. The new curriculum was seen as a highlight.

The inspectors also highlighted the quality of teaching across the school and that the pupils are engaged and keen to learn and have pride in their work. Foundation stage is outstanding and pupils getting a good education and in an official inspection the school would do really well.

End of year trips

End of year trips were discussed by the council. It is not our usual practice to put on end of year visits purely for entertainment purposes. Year 6 always have a fun activity at the end of the year (as they are leaving) and all other year groups have educational visits to enhance the curriculum. This year for instance, year 4 are attending a National Ballet performance, Y6 are learning how to sail and Y5 have their regular 4 day residential in Suffolk.