

Parents Forum – The March C of E School – Jan 2016

Date – Jan 16

Topic – ‘Vision’ for the School & Wrap Around Care

Attendees

Chair – Mr Jackson (Deputy Head)

Presentation – Mrs Metcalfe (Head Teacher)

Governor Attendee – Stella Aldred, Rachel Bryan, Mary Isgar

Parent Governor Attendees –NA

Further attendees – parent attendees

Minutes – Gael Emmett

Mrs Metcalfe led the forum with a presentation ‘The MARCH Vision’ – outlining her vision for the school, please also see document attached

Part One - OVERVIEW OF ‘The March VISION’

PLEASE NOTE – FULL VERSION IN ATTACHMENT – notes pertaining to document taken during meeting, below

- Inspiration and Aspiration
 - Children should be **inspired** to learn
 - Children should develop **aspirations** for the future.
- The Christian Ethos of the School
 - Start the day with ‘worship’, 9 o’clock each day
 - Underpin the Christian ethos of the school in planning, the curriculum and behaviour within the school
 - SIAMS inspection coming up soon
- Dare to be different – **Innovation**
 - Skills lead to knowledge
 - The curriculum has been ‘upskilled’
- Create a ‘Have a go’ culture

- growth mindset
- develop intelligence –
- ‘*make a mistake*’ – learn from it and progress
- Behaviour & policies
 - Clear expectations – a referral document for school, children and parents – new document being developed and approved by Governors
 - Clear sanctions and rewards for good behaviour
 - Individual *goals* set for each child with reward system for individual achievement – gold, silver, bronze badges
 - Other reinforcing reward schemes for good behaviour – raffle tickets in playground at playtime, Go Green etc
 - Partnering with parents – including parents in children’s successes/achievements. Inviting parents to attend assembly where child is acknowledged
- Create **Research and Enquiry Centre**
 - To be developed in the current ITC suite area
 - Use of ‘Bell Bars’ with displayed item of interest/intrigue to
 - Promote enquiry
 - Create excitement
 - Encourage research
 - Prepare children for ‘independent learning’ – early preparation for required skill at secondary school
- help will be needed to develop this area – design, sourcing etc
- there will be an Easter ‘Breakfast’ for parents/carers to attend to promote/share the ‘Vision’ for the school (dates TBC).
- Developing relationships within the community
 - Working with local business such as Rolls Royce to enhance learning opportunities in school
 - Working with parents who may have skill sets they could use to support learning

Part Two – Wrap Around Care

Outline

7.45-8.45am –

- Breakfast included
- Lifeskills focus – helping to prepare and clear up – focus on fun & taking part
- Children delivered to their class at start of school day

3.00-5.00pm –

- Can be later til 5.30 if demand is there
- This is a time to ‘chill’ out after school day – fun activities
- Snack 4pm - Lifeskills focus – helping to prepare and clear up – focus on fun & taking part
- Secure collection – use of pass word and 2xdesignated people only to collect
- Fee paying – keeping costs as low as possible, to enable staff to be paid and for resources to be acquired.
- Booking – for full term
- Methods payment – online (Sep), childcare vouchers accepted
- Staff – to be sourced from current TA’s in school – paid role (please note – the school is not intending to use Teachers in this role)
- Will initially be run within current facilities available – long term goal is to create own facility

Matters raised for discussion

Q: Will there be a limited number of places?

- At present the ratio for need is 1:15 following recent survey
- Demand may increase once set up

Q: Will there be flexibility on bookings for wrap around care

- The school will respond to each individual request dependent on their current availability at that time. The aim is to endeavour to support where they can.

Q: When does the school anticipate starting up wrap around care

- The set up date is reliant on draft policy approval , West Sussex approval and staff resourcing etc
- Goal is post Easter holidays start up

Q: How will children attending External Learning such as Forest School travel back to school to attend care?

- possibility of minibus for these children or all children attending FS if parents wish – would need paying for
- possibility of FS on site discussed though not seen as best solution, given limitations of school grounds

Q: Would school clubs continue?

- Yes – they are viewed as unique and different

Q: Who chooses the school clubs?

- **Internally** run clubs are run voluntarily by teachers who give up their own time to carry out
- Generally the club a teacher may elect to run will be focused around an area of their own expertise
- We have approx 15 clubs running at our school which is a very good standard within the local area, other schools running as few as 4 (pay only) clubs (please see other school websites for accurate information on published clubs)

- **Externally** run clubs (often fee paying) are reliant on external providers approaching us.

- The provider is on a West Sussex list of approved providers
- The provider must carry £10million Public Liability Insurance
- Some schools will not support external providers – suggested due to ‘issues’ arising

Q: Will there be less last minute canceling of clubs?

- Mrs Metcalfe has requested no further canceling of clubs. So far this term it can be reported that there have been NO cancellations.
- The school will look at the possibility of using wrap around care as cover where clubs absolutely have to be cancelled due to sickness.

Q: How are places allocated for clubs?

- Try to keep allocations as fair as possible
- Some clubs are seriously over subscribed, for instance the Cooking Club had 62 applications for spaces. In cases like this names are pulled out of a hat to make as fair as possible. The allocations for this club are being spread out over two terms, to try to give everyone a chance. Behaviour is also key to having a place, poor behaviour results in the loss of your place.

Q: Who pays for the school clubs?

- Outside providers – we do not pay, a fee may be charged directly by provider to parent/carer. This is outside the school curriculum.
- Internally – staff volunteer their time. Children may be asked to provide items to support activity in club – eg: food required for cooking club.

Q: Has there been any pressure put on staff to support the introduction of wrap around care?

- The school is only looking for staffing from amongst the current TA staff. They have shown a lot of interest. If there wasn't interest we would look externally

Other matters raised for discussion

- There was discussion around the perceived benefits of 'Church' schools and the sense of 'community'. This led to a suggestion of an 'event' to support new parents, most particularly non Church attending, as an 'introduction' and welcome to the Church environment within the school.
- The comment was made that the 'Foundations of Humanity' taught within the school are a key part of the strength of the school
- The question was raised as to the school's policy on bilingual children in attendance at the school. The school acknowledges the positive benefits and would not discourage the children from speaking other languages. It was also acknowledged that children will choose to revert to the language they feel they can best communicate in within a given environment. This may be the language their peer group is using.
- It was asked whether the new system for SATS levels had yet been confirmed. The answer was that it has not yet been confirmed in its entirety, but the school knows the formats and Yr 6 parents have had this information at the Meet the Teacher Evening

NEXT MEETING – Thursday 10th March

TOPIC – further progress on current meeting topic – Wrap Around Care

Please note – it was found that no topics had been suggested through the 'suggestion box' for future meetings. Please do use the suggestion box for future meetings. Without these suggestions, the content of the meeting will revert back to being set by the Leadership team.