

27th September 18.30 - 20.00

- PC as a representative body

There was discussion around how more parents could be encouraged to join and how parents could be made aware of who the parent council are. Solutions offered included; photos on noticeboards, newsletter announcements, website presence. All of these will be enacted.

- PC as a problem solving path when normal communication channels have been explored

It was stressed that there are a variety of communication pathways within the school and that issues brought to parent council should have been explored via existing pathways already.

There was discussion about splitting into small school, year group or primary/ secondary councils but there were concerns about overlap for parents with a number of children in the school, and overlapping issues. There were also concerns about attendance and engagement from some parts of the school.

- Childcare arrangements/ meeting time and location

It was raised that text messages require more detail and more discretion about who receives them particularly attendance texts.

The PC meeting time changes were considered. Childcare couldn't be provided in the evening, so the question of children being present had to be considered. The cost of childcare was an issue; the possibility of staff looking after children was problematic but could be explored.

- Depth before breadth!

The PC will deal with a small selection of issues at each meeting so the concerns can be fully addressed. It was agreed that a shared policy about email conduct should be created by the school and that all queries should be answered or acknowledged within a set time frame.

- Attendance and punctuality

Please advise when not coming to the PC meeting. Meeting should start and finish on time.

- Agenda collating and sharing

There was to have been a meeting around half-term to discuss the progress of the school.

It is helpful for parents and school agendas to be shared further in advance of the meeting to allow for a period of consultation. Both parties are committed to this.

How can the KSA parent council work most effectively to meet its two aims?

- Consultation

There was a feeling that allowing anyone to attend rather than elected committee members worked well. There is a recognition that parents and school should be working to try and increase representation at PC meetings. This will be shared at parents evenings, along with the option for parents to share their contact details with the PC should they choose to.

- Fundraising

The fundraising side could be dealt with by a PTFA. Parents on this committee would still be able to pass comments to the PC.

Communication with parents

- Written, regular communication (newsletters, texts)

School asked for opinion on how communication had been handled.

- Reports

Agreement was made that reports must be accurate, timely and proof read and should be issued in time for parents to raise queries before the holidays. It was felt that a less frequent, more detailed report was preferable and it is important that all pupils receive relevant information regardless of any additional needs or special circumstances. A flight path for the child would be helpful and a comparison with national averages would be useful but not always possible for internal exams.

- Parent meetings

The possibility of a 'parent day' was proposed and more feedback is required but the general sense was that this could be difficult for working parents. The format of having all of the teachers in one room worked well and was popular last year. Portfolio presentations were also valued.

The next Parent Council meeting will be November 8th at 18.30