

Parent Council – Consultation Committee
Tuesday 4th May
MINUTES

Present: Max Haimendorf (Principal), Katarine Deeks (Acting Head of Primary)
Liliana, Phil, Fatma, Gabriela, Adam, Hayley, Kaya, Tigan

Minutes: Shaheen Riaz

1 School requests for feedback and consultation

Relaxing restrictions consultation

- a.** Lunch in shared spaces
- b.** No masks required in classrooms in Secondary
- c.** Trips
- d.** Clubs

The Principal spoke to the committee; Covid-19 rates have decreased a lot, moving to stage 3 from 17th May. The school is asking if we should be easing some of the restrictions to make the experience in school more positive and developmental, balancing this with the small but existing risk of coronavirus

Lunch in shared spaces

Since September the children, most of them Reception to year 8, 9 they've had to eat lunch in a lunch box. Things that have been good about this, it has been much easier to give children choice. What's not ideal about this is that the children are limited to their classroom which the associated mess and feels like the children are in the same spaces all day. The new OYS hall is to be finished before 17th May, so this will be used soon. At YYS, due to space and covid, two bubbles cannot be in the same space in the hall together.

We will do our very best to keep our bubbles separate in shared spaces, but the children will be in the same room with 2 m + social distancing.

Parents to be aware of this.

A parent asked a question

Ventilation seems to be the best counter-measure - won't it be harder to ventilate a lunch area as it's bigger? Apart from the increased opportunity for spread?

The Principal responded - we will be increasing the ventilation in the spaces without making it feel too cold.

A parent asked a question

How will the bubbles work?

The Principal responded - Reception to Year 3 classes will be in the room, but there would be a gap between them.

The Head of Primary responded - there's only 30 minutes outside, so we only have exactly 30 minutes for children to enjoy play zones. Would love to get back hatch dining, no more boxes etc. What YYS would struggle with is pick n mix.

A parent suggested that it might be worth waiting a little bit more, in September when things will hopefully be much better as it might be a bit stressful to implement this right now.

Requirements on masks

The Principal spoke to the committee. In secondary pupils need to wear masks in classrooms and communal areas (since 8th March). School view masks in classrooms in secondary slightly reduce the risks but if you are sat in the classroom with an infected person there is a risk of catching covid-19 whether you have a mask on or not, this is only just a slight reduction. There are other things in place such as ventilation and bubbling that help reduce the risk, having a mask on in classrooms makes things difficult for the pupils and for learning. If the government say that masks in classrooms not required anymore, then it would be good to relax this if this is the advice.

Parent feedback

Children have got used to it it, and if anyone cough or sneezethere is concern. Suggestion to see how pupils feel Also, there have been a few cases recently that has caused a worry. Louise prefers to keep it on for now.

Parents feel sure that their children would be happy with the relaxation on masks, as they are used to it now.

Trips

The Principal spoke to the committee. There has been a lot of discussion about this, based on government guidance we can do certain trips. Residential trips are not the right thing to do at the moment, but day trips can be organized to be lower risk. Particularly HT6 such as Sports Days, feel like we should be doing this. There are some constraints though, as soon as you get on public transport / coach is feels completely different compared to walking somewhere. Walking is very low risk whereas transport is very high risk. Parents feedback on if this will be welcome or if this is too soon.

A parent asked a question

Will it be year group or bubble only? If separate bubbles then the school should think about it

The Principal responded - there will be bubbles, but separated.

A parent feedback -

There are lots of nearby walkable trips that are possible, don't think parents would object to this.

A parent asked a question

Will parents be invited?

The Principal responded, no, parents would not be invited which will be a constraint but this would create a situation whereby parents will end up being an additional contact for a trip all day, interacting with the children. In regard to supporting with walking etc then yes this would be fine with controls in place.

The Head of Primary responded, The ratio for primary is much higher. The journey there and back would need additional support from parents. Parents and staff need to feel that all safety measures have been put in place.

A parent made a suggestion for parents to complete a LFT in advance.

The Principal spoke to the committee - There is positivity about walking trips outside, need to arrange how we are going to do this.

Other parental feedback from the chat

- I wouldn't be keen on tube or coach travel but walk-to sports activities would be fine.
- The vaccination requirement for parents sounds good, otherwise there will be fears relating to test inaccuracy and whether it's done properly
- A day out on parks will be good for the kids.
- It would be good to have trips if in walking distance

Clubs

The Principal spoke to the committee, we will do a small manageable plan with clubs. Years 5 to 8 going to have year group clubs which are activities which don't require contact or proximity but cant say zero risk of transmission but will be very low risk but on balance as children have been able to attend weekend football clubs etc, we should be able to do activities that are designed in a way there where isn't much proximity between children (cricket). We will be doing contact tracing to manage this. The way the clubs are being run there should be little contact tracing.

A parent asked a question

Why years 5 to 8 only?

The Principal responded - it is going to require oversight and capacity, need to ensure there is a good staff ratio to pupils. The spaces we have that are suitable are at OYS are if we do these year groups it uses all the spaces we have. It is about capacity and the spaces available.

At YYS with younger children harder to have a meaningful about contacts and social distancing. You can do contact tracing in JS, harder lower down.

The Head of Primary responded. We will see how this goes and consider for younger aged children if it goes successfully for the older children.

2 Parent raised issues

- e. Ramadan reflections
- f. Eid celebration
- g. Parents' Evening review
- h. Summer uniform clarification

Ramadan

This is a big part of the school community, wanted to ask any reflections on if there is anything we have done well or if we should do differently to support and recognize the time of year.

No parental feedback given.

Eid

Two significant celebrations, the end of Ramadan on the 12th or 13th May. In the past, when it has fallen on a school day the school because we were trying to maximise learning time we put PD on these days. Having to reflected on this, and taken lots of feedback over time, this is not an appropriate thing to do because we have Muslim staff also, it's not respectful or inclusive of our Muslim staff. Therefore, we will not have PD days on Eid, we will have a school day understanding that it is an important day. Parents to request ELOA which will be approved. Will write to parents who celebrate EID and if they would like to be absence, then complete a short Microsoft Form. This will enable the school is

organize and prepare the day accordingly (merging of classes, lunch numbers etc).

A parent asked a question

Is there any consideration for next year for there to be a PD on these days, as there will be a lot of children off on EID.

The Principal spoke to the committee. The question is for non-Muslim families is, is it reasonable to say parents they need to find childcare on a random day in the week. It's harder to put a PD day on a Wednesday for example.

A parent responded to the Principal

The school has always had an inset day on EID, and it worked because a lot of children was off. Not sure how it's going to work or how parents will feel about this.

A parent responded to the Principal

Parents understand the ELOA request but this absence will affect children's overall absence and this will not be fair on the children. Preference to have this as a PD day.

The Head of Primary responded for primary - we really want children in school as they have had many days off recently because of the pandemic.

A parent made a suggestion

the school could do something, to give the feeling of Muslim children this is the EID day, and maybe during the lunch, the food etc. Give children the feeling this is the day of EID. Having them absent won't work. It's not a fixed day, maybe next year it will be a different day.

If we are going to this for the Muslim community, then we will have to do this for other religions.

Send to families, we will celebrate Eid in the school

Let's keep it as simple as it is

A parent asked a question

what about if the school did half a day.

Would feel like a guilt trip for parents, this is a big thing to think about.

A parent responded

understands that 80% of the community is Muslim but all the children learn from each other, there are many other non Muslim holidays whereby children need to go to school. This is a non religious school. Need to be inclusive, giving privilege over certain religions over to others is quite contradictory.

The Principal responded to the committee - we need to make sure we are positive and inclusive about our decisions. We are going to mark EID in the normal way. How inclusive is it for 80% of parents to complete a form – we either say it's not a school day, or there has to be some sort of record that they are going to be absent because as a school we are responsible for children attending school. In terms of it not being a school day it's either PD day or not a school day. Because we don't know what day it is we end up losing two days and for PD it's difficult because we don't have all of our team with us, and if it's an off day then it's difficult for non-Muslim families. We do not want parents to hear that we don't think we value this day, because we do.

A parent responded

Parents understand the message regarding 100% attendance but sometimes when it comes to this day 100% attendance cannot be achieved. The school to think about how bad the school will look if 80 % of the children will not be at the school.

Other parent feedback in the chat

- I wouldn't be keen on a non-school day just because a day's schooling is missed.
- I agree. This ideas sound OK but provision should be made for reduced numbers of non-Muslim kids to have a full day's schooling.
- If it's just Eid food (that shouldn't be a problem for any religion and should avoid any issues with different practices

In the past as we don't celebrate my children attended school, very few children were in but they had a lovely day / some learning and some fun activities

- Celebrating Eid at school is a great idea. It helps inclusivity, tolerance and sense of community
- I don't feel comfortable taking into consideration large community only while ignoring minorities. We should take into consideration all communities, regardless of the size of the groups. This is the way for more inclusivity

Max Haimendorf what's changed is that the school doesn't feel inclusive to Muslim staff if PD time is done on Eid. The point on attendance, it's difficult as we do celebrate attendance being 100%. **The Head of Primary** during the pandemic children hasn't been attending 100% but since March it has been a lot better. Love the Eid lunchtime meal idea.

Max Haimendorf if we can make it a commitment in the long term then great. We understand it may take a long time to change the culture, and that a lot of children might not attend school on this day.

Parents' Evening

The Principal spoke to the committee. We received feedback that Nursery should have received same times however, this was different because we wanted to reduce the days because of the move, so as a one off we put the nursery appointment times during the day so the children can attend right til the end of Monday. We understand parents found this inconvenient, this won't happen again.

In terms of parents' evening, another feedback received was the possibility of having primary and secondary at the same time. They are scheduled separately because of the availability of data. For example, when Yr11 have their GCSE mock exams, their parents' evening is scheduled three weeks after that as that's when the data is available. This is the same in primary, there is a cycle of when the data is available. If the feedback is that this will be helpful for this to be at the same time, then we can look at this and see if this is possible. The Principal asked parents if this would be better.

Parents gave feedback

- Lots of working parents saying this is very difficult, especially during the pandemic whereby parents have lost lots of days of work because of the pandemic. Quite a few other parents agreed it affected them also.
- Before the event there should be a communication between the parents and the teacher that to inform them of the best time and the reason.

Parental reports

Not all primary parents received their reports. The Head of Primary thanked everyone for their feedback and apologized to parents who did not receive it. The reports will go out today.

Summer Uniform

The Principal spoke to the committee. Through different parts of the school the summer dress hasn't necessarily been totally clear as it could have been. We will send out an updated communication so that it makes it really clear in primary and secondary what the expectations are, as the feedback from parents is that it is not clear enough.

AOB

A parent asked a question

When we will hear about the teachers in classes?

The Principal responded. Although teachers are really good at letting us know, the legal responsibility is for teachers to let us know they are leaving by 31st May. It's not sensible to do the class allocations until after 31st May.

Once we are clear and allocated teachers to their classes, then senior leaders discuss whether or not the children should be kept in the same

class or different. There isn't one rule in the school that all classes stay the same, it's a judgement call based on the knowledge of the senior leadership team.

We have new staff training on the 25th June, so we always try to have this as the day where all the teachers and pupils get to meet their new teacher. We will let parents know at the end of June.