

Parent Forum Minutes



Meeting: Autumn term meeting of the Sherard Parent Forum

Date and time: 24th October 2023 at 5:30pm

Location: Sherard Primary School

In attendance

Parents:

- Pia Delucchi
- Rebecca Partington
- Hannah Mansel

Staff:

- Helena Blumfield – Headteacher
- Tina Middleton, Senior Leadership Team
- Anna Duval – MET Clerk

Welcome and Introductions

Mrs Blumfield welcomed everyone to the meeting. The aim of the parent forum is to hear parents voice, for parents to put forward ideas and for open discussions to take place. Parents can suggest topics or subject areas they would like to discuss or receive training in, and relevant school staff can be invited to present at meetings. These parent forums do not discuss items relating to specific pupils, specific parents, or individual staff.

A MS Forms was sent to all parents in advance of the meeting to give feedback and raise questions to the parent forum. There were 13 responses the day before the meeting and a number of responses on the day to give a total of 31 responses by the time of the meeting. The responses were used to shape discussions.

Mrs Blumfield said that her core business is to educate children during the school day and that a frustration has been that Weduc, wrap around care, and clubs that are extra have recently dominated her time and workload and have required extra work from the admin staff.

Weduc

Mrs Blumfield said she has moved from being an advocate of Weduc to finding it not suitable for the school in its current format. However, the developers of the app are working on the issues so that it can meet the needs of the school.

Mrs Blumfield explained why Weduc was introduced. It was felt that one system that could ease the workload for parents and staff would be beneficial. Weduc was recommended by the previous Head of

School at Iveshead, who now works for the MET trust wide who said Iveshead School had used it and that Weduc was a local company that could offer personal support. Weduc gave a presentation and showed how systems (Facebook. Instagram) and school systems will be incorporated all in one place. Sherard trailed it towards the end of the summer term and rolled it out at the beginning of the autumn term. Since this time there have been problems with Weduc in that it does not do what the school requires it to do in its current format. The wrap around care booking systems had experienced issues and it could not cope with the 3 slots of booking. Mrs Blumfield said she has spent a lot of time talking with the technology specialist with no satisfactory solution being found.

Mrs Blumfield has explained to parents her frustrations with Weduc and how she understands the frustrations that parents are experiencing with the system.

Mrs Blumfield said that she has spoken to a parent from this school who is a member of the MET Curriculum Committee and who has emailed the company to say it is not working and has received no response.

Parents and Mrs Blumfield are worried about the impact that Weduc is having on the school's relationship with parents.

Parent said Weduc takes a lot of space on their phone.

Wrap around Care

Mrs Blumfield explained that the wrap around care facility has always had a cap of 40 children but that the cap has not been reached before. The school is now finding more demand for wrap around care places and in some sessions the cap has been reached. It was noted that some places are booked and not used and that cancelling places via Weduc is another fault of the system. Mrs Blumfield suggested that parents can email admin to cancel booked session.

Mrs Blumfield said the capacity of the wrap around care is limited by the physical space and that other areas in the school are used for clubs and enrichment activities.

Clubs

Clubs are run by school staff and an external coach for sports clubs that the school pays for. The clubs are on a half term rolling programme.

Mrs Blumfield took on board the comments raised by parents requesting that a list of clubs that will be running will be made available in advance of the booking date and release time.

Parents said the clubs offer is good.

Parent Forum meeting times

The timing of the parent forum meetings was discussed. It was agreed to trial the next meeting at a later time of 6-7pm and assess attendance.

Mrs Blumfield said that parents are still able to submit response via the MS Forms.

Reading Morning

Parents raised that not all parents can attend the reading morning and suggested having it on alternative days. It was also suggested that an afternoon reading session could be made once every half term. (Thursday)

Lunches

Booking lunches on Weduc was raised as a problem. Both the school and parents are having problems.

Shows

Parents said that working parents find it difficult to attend class assemblies/events and shows and asked if any could take place in the evening. Mrs Blumfield said she would consider this when planning events.

Representing the school at sports events

Parents said that when they attended a cross county sports event the school did not have a flag or similar for the team to use to show they are representing the school whereas other schools did. Mrs Blumfield said there is a school flag and will see if it is available.

It was also noted that the boys have a football kit, but the girls do not. Mrs Blumfield said she will look into this.

Parents asked how children are selected for sports competitions. Mrs Blumfield said it is based on proficiency and whether they are in the sports club. Parents said that often children play sports outside of school rather the school club and would like to be involved in sports competitions. Mrs Blumfield said she will find out how children are selected.

Sanitary bins.

Year 6 have asked for a sanitary bin in their bathroom, but they've not got one yet. Mrs Middleton said that there was one and will arrange for it to be located there.

Locked gates

Mrs Blumfield said that they used to let parents park in the school car park when collecting from clubs, but it became a health and safety issue.

Parking in the school vicinity

The school is working with the local PCSO with parking and parking continues to be monitored.

Parents evening.

Parents said they did not have the opportunity to see children's books at online parent's evenings. Mrs Blumfield said there is an open afternoon for parents to come and view books on November 29th. The same time allocation is given for online meetings as the in-person meetings. The reason it is online is because a survey was done, and parental feedback was 50/50 therefore one is online, and one is in-person.

Prem aware

A parent raised details of a free course for school staff to become prem aware about the issues face by children who are born prematurely.

Mrs Blumfield thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 18:25