

Parent Forum Minutes



Meeting title: Sherard Parent Forum

Date and time: Tuesday 10th June 2025 at 5.00pm

Location: Meeting at the school

Parents Jenny Harley
Pia Delucchi
Natalie Stathakis

In attendance Helena Blumfield, Headteacher
Gena Ferguson, MET Clerk

Welcome and Introductions

Helena welcomed everyone to the Parent Forum meeting.

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 7 responses, and these were used to shape discussions.

The rationale of the meeting was explained by the clerk. They are to provide feedback and suggest improvements, and to help promote positive and effective two-way communication between parents and the Trust. The improvement of children's learning experience is the Forum's clear and consistent goal.

Parent Forum meetings will not be discussing items relating to specific pupils, specific parents, or individual staff: this should be discussed one to one with the relevant teacher or Headteacher as appropriate.

Feedback from Parents: What is Working Well?

- Teaching staff and assistants are amazing. Wellbeing of child is important, and staff have invested in wellbeing of pupils' wellbeing on numerous occasions.
- The school clubs offering is good, and children enjoy them.
- Parents are happy to have class Dojo back.
- The Sherard family feel - reading sessions moved to an afternoon every term, the Easter Bonnet Parade etc

Feedback from Parents: What could we improve?

- School doesn't educate children about Eid. Other religious holidays are covered including Christmas, Diwali, and Easter.
- Communication on school events and dinner menu changes should be improved. Informing parents earlier with detailed information on upcoming events including times. Planning and organising of events could be improved.
- Checking 3 different platforms (Class dojo, Bromcom, and emails) for information from school is too many platforms for parents to juggle. Timing of emails sent should be considered as well.
- Volume of notifications by school on what children have done out of school. This can cause other messages are difficult to locate due to the number of communications. Can these be shared on a schedule like every two weeks.
- Events for parents to attend are almost always during the day which doesn't consider parents' work schedules. Also ensure events don't clash with other schools within the trust to consider families with children in multiple schools.

Other items discussed

Communication and Amount of apps

The parents need to know which platform should be checked for emails and announcements from staff and this stays consistent. Helena shared that it is good we have dojo back and official communications from office should be sent through Bromcom and appear in MCAS. Helena will speak with her administration team and communicate guidance on what platforms are used and send to parents.

Helena's headteacher post has been changed to be sent on Friday instead of Sunday. Feedback received is very positive. This allows parents to plan anything ahead instead of night before the new school week.

Helena shared that she felt it was important to celebrate all children's accomplishments happening outside of school which prompted the dojo post. If this is done upon receipt of information from parent. The suggestion to do a bulk post less frequently would create more work and increase likelihood of a celebration missed. The parents discussed options in how to use dojo differently for this. Helena will look at other options in how to better communicate achievements celebrated a way.

The changes on dinner menu can be unknown because of a late supply shortage due to delivery times. Helena believes the catering provider change to Innovate in September will improve the situation. The area manager for Innovate will meet more frequently with Helena and office team to build an improved relationship. The 3-week menu will be shared to parents in an email.

Religious and Celebration at Sherard

The staff at Sherard are committed to incorporate as many cultural, religious and celebrations into school. The majority are planned and added in the school calendar at the beginning of each academic year. Helena appreciates feedback from parents for additional options, and she will ensure EID and Ramadan are included next year.

School Clubs and Parent Events.

Helena said that clubs change every 6 weeks, and every effort is made to hold sports and non-sport options. The sports grant does bring in some external staff to introduce other sports and this is focused on different year groups to offer it across as many ages as possible. Helena said the events and workshops offered in the day by a staff; every effort is done to have a repeat of the event in the evening. They are unable to offer that if the event is provided by an external provider because that timing is not decided by the school.

Parent Questions from attendees

- Can Sherard offer additional transition options for children to have more time to adjust to new class / teacher ahead of next year. The parent believes if it is known sooner of the new teacher it will help. Helena said that the staffing has just been finalised because of job shares in certain rooms. There are two transition activities happening including a story swap on 27th June where the new teacher visits them in current classroom. Second is 30th June where children will spend entire afternoon in their new classroom with teacher. Helena will investigate communicating the new teachers as soon as reasonably possible. If parents have any additional concerns or questions about transition, please raise to Helena.
- The date of Sherard prom is also same day for transition evening at JFC. Both events impact the year 6 pupils. Helena said prom is scheduled at beginning of year and the transition event has just now been communicated. Helena will work with MET team to find another option with JFC so all year 6 are catered for.

The meeting ended at 6:00pm