

## Parent Forum Minutes and Actions for The Board

School: Lansdowne Primary School

Term: 6

Year: 2021

### Views of Stakeholders sought on:

- What is the purpose of education?
- What do children get from education?
- How do your children learn best?
- Year 6 Leavers & transitions

### Points Raised:

- HT welcomed all parents and outlined the agenda. HT asked parents for their views on the purpose of education, explaining that across the Trust schools, there would be likely to be different opinions depending on the demographics of the individual school. Parents responded by saying it was more than just about learning the standard curriculum of learning to read and write, but more about 'learning about respect and discipline and having 'standards' and understanding about values in society'. They felt that it's purpose acts as a wider reach beyond the assumed knowledge-based education curriculum – it is more about teaching children about their fit in the world. 'Getting them ready to learn, and ready for life beyond education.'
- HT asked our parents what they believe children get from education, and parents said they believe that children with a good education have better prospects, better futures, social mobility, better jobs and are able to make better decisions for themselves. One parent feels the benefit of a good education is about having a love of learning, building on social skills, respect, an understanding of where one sits in society and how to behave in the world. Being able to have the knowledge to behave appropriately and have boundaries in certain settings, to prepare the children for life and work beyond school. Ultimately, parents felt that a good education should give children choices – 'to be able to give back to their communities should they choose to, to not feel stuck if they want to leave their community, to have aspiration, as well as options and choice.
- HT asked parents how they think their children learn best. One parent said that 'one size/box not does not fit all and that each of her children learn in different ways, and that having a teachers' understanding of this is vital. The parent said that having a teacher who is able to demonstrate flexibility and adaptability within the class in order to meet individual children's learning styles, can help support children to learn best. The parent also acknowledged how challenging this must be when you have a class of 30 students, all of whom learn differently.
- HT explained that as educators, we are noticing that our knowledge base and ways of using Maths and English is changing, and that there is a need to to embrace new ways (which are reflective of society and particularly in terms of technology – which our children have more knowledge and understanding of than us at times), in order to prepare our children adequately for life after the classroom. HT said that we are looking at working in more 'child-friendly' and creative ways, and taking on different learning styles, giving children more choice in the way that they learn, making use of books, drawing/visuals, as well as opting for technical approaches too, whilst still retaining some of the traditional methods of writing/recording too.

- HT asked parents for their thoughts around making progressive changes within the classroom in Key Stage 2 – allowing more freedom and flexibility, as well as providing other opportunities for learning such as use of earphones/music in some circumstances. This was received extremely positively by our parents, who also suggested having gym balls to sit on to encourage core strength and support children who struggle to sit still.
- HT and parents all agreed that learning best comes when the children are enjoying themselves and when they become immersed in a way that suits their learning style.
- Parents asked about transitions to secondary school and how this would be managed in line with Covid19 restrictions. HT acknowledged that this would be more difficult this year but that all secondary schools were in contact with Lansdowne and arrangements were being made for face to face or virtual visits and that schools were doing as much as they could to transition the children smoothly.
- AOB: Parents asked if the end of Year Production would be going ahead with an audience. HT explained we will follow government guidance, but is really hoping that this will be possible, and parents will be kept updated.
- HT confirmed that Sports Day will not be open to parents this year due to the logistics of keeping everyone safe. One parent asked if it could be recorded or live streamed, and HT explained this would be very difficult as some children cannot be photographed/filmed, and this would be impossible to facilitate.
- HT thanked parents for their organisation of the 'leaving hoodies' for the year 6 children, and shared that there had been a good uptake by the children.
- HT let parents know that we are almost at capacity for new entrants joining the September 2021 intake, which everyone agreed was fantastic.
- Moving forward to Term 1 in September 2021, it is hoped that clubs and the normal start/end times of the school day will resume. HT shared that staggered lunchtimes and breaktimes may still continue as this has worked well.
- HT thanked parents for all their input and support this year.
- Date of next meeting to be confirmed by HT.

**Action required by the school:**

- HT will feedback the voices of the parents at the next board meeting.
- HT will keep parents updated on the Year 6/Leavers activities as soon as government guidance is released.
- HT will set the next Parent Forum meeting for term 1 and inform parents of this date once confirmed.
- PSA will continue to support all children, parents and families within school and liaise with the parent forum parents as appropriate.

**Points for consideration by the Board:**

- Parents were keen to embrace new ways of learning within the classroom for their children, and were keen to see how some of these aspects of teaching and learning might look in the classroom – perhaps an open afternoon in time?
- Parents would like to be consulted more widely about new innovations or ways in which individual children might learn best.