

Minutes from the SEND Focus Group Meeting – 20th October 2022

Present: Katy Farrow, Lisa Hele, Fiona Bishop, Sarah Lay, Lisa Cooper, Katie Lorandeanu, Janie Rose, Claire M Smith

Item	Notes	Actions
Welcome	Each member of the group introduced themselves	
Communication	There was praise about how Mr Lee Allan communicates with parents and the support given during lockdown	
Understanding the school	<p>Parents spoke about how they would like to come to school as some parents have not had the opportunity to come inside the building and are not familiar with it.</p> <p>Parents felt that if they could have tours of the school they could talk / support their children better. They could also highlight potential problems within the school for their child(ren).</p> <p>Would like maps of the school.</p>	<p>Katy Farrow will look at the possibility of tours for parents before pupil passport events. It was agreed that these tours could be in small groups and if people wanted more time they could book appointments with staff.</p> <p>Katy Farrow will place a school map on the school website, so it can be seen by all</p>
Pupil passport afternoons	<p>Parents would like appointment times to be extended.</p> <p>Parents would be happy for one of the meetings to be held with the form tutor, as this would give them an opportunity to meet the form tutor</p>	<p>The year 8 event on 1st November is longer - 15 minutes, we can then look to see if this is enough time.</p>
End of Year	<p>Parents would like their children to have their timetables at the end of July as this would ease anxieties. It would allow children to know who their teachers were, where they would be taught and who they would be with</p> <p>A parent who had a tour at the start of the year said that this was very useful for their child as they could see changes that had happened over the summer. Other parents felt that this would benefit their children.</p>	<p>Katy Farrow to raise at Senior Leadership meeting.</p>
Non School Uniform Days	<p>This is very stressful for all the students whose parents were at the meeting. Esp. those ones with a theme. The stress of a non-school uniform day can cause nonattendance.</p> <p>The parents said that they knew some children loved them.</p>	<p>Katy Farrow will raise in leadership meeting</p>

	When you have a large family there is a financial strain to non-school uniform day – children may want new clothes and must pay to wear them	
Oasis	Parents would like to come and see the facilities within the Oasis area. Some parents had felt concerned that the school was asking for donations.	Katy Farrow to speak to Claire Broxton about this opportunity
Support and Contact.	Parents would appreciate a call / update about their child. Sometimes parents don't hear anything, and this would reassure them. The online parents' evenings have meant that appointments have felt short / been cut off / not as helpful. They would like in person evenings. When a diagnosis is given parents can feel lost and would appreciate the help and support of others Being a SEND parent can feel like a negative experience – would like some positive opportunities within the school. Spoke about an SEND – Bingo event – parents thought that this would be a good idea	Katy spoke about the LSA champions and the possibility that they could make these calls Katy Farrow and Simon Peckford to arrange a bingo night
Email Contact	A parent asked Is there a way to try an open up communication a bit more between SEN children and staff via email rather than face to face as some, are anxious to talk?	KFA to consider how this is possible