COLLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL
Parent Focus Group Meeting with Collis School Governing Board
9 June 2022

MINUTES

PARENT FOCUS GROUP MEMBERS

School

Kevin Hogston	Head Teacher & Chairman
Jayne King	Minutes

Parent Members

	Children
Julie Syers	6,3,&1
Ayse Celik	5 & 2
Ann Curtis	5 x twins
John Dutton	4
Katie Hibbard	3 & 1
Hayley Wilkes	2
Julia Parker	2
Ana Zabala-Wynne	1
Michael Darowski	1
Shilpa Shenoy	1 & N
Tri Bannister	R
Sharon Fergus	R

CSA
Jenny Day
Nicola Hanley

Governors
Mags Thomas, Chair
Helen Samuel
Graham Spiby
Julia Combe
Alison Beardon
Michael Bailey
Jo Grieve
Jo Kitson
Oliver Tucker
Diana Staplehurst

Apologies
Sharon Fergus, Tri Bannister, Hayley Wilkes

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

KH summarised the main points of the Ofsted discussion at the last meeting. A letter from our Chair of Governors was sent to parents in May that highlighted the changes to the OFSTED inspection criteria and its impact on all schools.
https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/collis-primary-school/UploadedDocument/7741cd81-4228-417f-bc08-89c8dcc2a713/collis-governing-board-newsletter-spring-2022.pdf

KH asked for any feedback from parents.

Another Outstanding school Sheen Mount has moved from Outstanding to Good, which highlights the trend with the tougher new inspection framework.
http://www.sheenmount.richmond.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=408&type=pdf

MATTERS ARISING (AOB)

There were no matters arising.

WHAT'S WORKING WELL

1. The fabulous new playground equipment that has been installed in the Reception outdoor areas and funded by the CSA.
2. The swimming pool that the children love. KH highlighted the huge challenge to get the pool up and running, not to mention the cost of heating the pool, given the huge rise in energy prices. Parents discussed using the pool over the summer holiday or hiring it for birthday parties, both would be very popular and a source of income. However, both are very noisy and consideration for our immediate neighbours prevents us from being able to use the pool outside term-time.

CATS/CLUBS

Further to discussions at the two previous meetings, Paul Dowsett, Manager at CATS, gave an overview of the activities at CATS.

CATS is hugely popular with the children. We have the capacity for 110 children in the afternoon and 40-50 children in the morning. Ad hoc places are available for families who need last minute childcare. These sessions are slightly dearer than those booked in advance.

CATS has a large range of activities for the children that include: arts & crafts, outdoor sports, table tennis & snooker, dodgeball & gym, games & coding in the ICT suite. The activities vary each day and are advertised on a board allowing the children to choose what they would like to do when they arrive.

CATS has incorporated gym and basketball into its sessions. Two external coaches who run afterschool and lunchtime clubs at school also work at CATS. Both activities are very popular with the children.

Parents suggested that CATS should advertise the activities that it offers more widely.

https://www.collis.richmond.sch.uk/cats/

Again, parents requested a larger choice of clubs for all children, but especially those in KS1. In response to parent feedback, KH was pleased to advise that we will be introducing a French language class for KS1 from September and we are hoping to reintroduce Forest School and are actively looking for a teacher.

We are able to confirm that Richmond Music Trust offers a wide range of instrumental tuition and their Wider Opportunities Scheme offers violin or cello whole class lessons in Year 3 after which those children who take an interest can continue with RMT lessons.

Information will be included at Curriculum meetings in September.

MIXING CLASSES

Mixing classes is an emotive subject that divides parent opinion. Many parents believe that if the class works well, why should it be changed. Equally, others believe that by mixing year groups, the children will find making new friendships much easier, it will break up cliques and make the children more resilient to change. Particular concern was expressed about how the children cope when transitioning to secondary school.

KH explained that mixing a year may be necessary if classes become unbalanced, perhaps heavy with special educational needs or behaviour issues, in which case it is important that the teacher's time is not dominated by one or two children. However, mixing a year group does result in a lot of 'feedback' from parents. Governors expressed concern about the extra workload on the head teacher and class teachers, not just in creating the new classes, but in resolving concerns. Mixing classes is not part of our policy and it can be a surprise to parents if it does become necessary - an example being the reorganisation of this year's Year 5 from four to three classes, which became necessary due to there being fewer children in each class.

Conclusion: Having listened to parents' comments, Collis will consider whether systemically mixing a year group, say at the end of a Key Stage (infants) on an annual basis, should be incorporated into the school's policy.
Advance notice: To give parents advance notice, any change of policy would be published well in advance (Autumn 2022/Spring term 2023) of the proposed change for Autumn 2023.

PARENT COMMUNICATIONS
A lack of time meant we were unable discuss this topic fully - it will be carried over to next year.

AND FINALLY

KH thanked everyone for their participation.
In September, parents will be invited to apply to join the Parent Focus Group for the academic year 2022-2023.

Please inform Jayne if you have any agenda items that you would like included next year.