COLLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARENT FOCUS GROUP
12 October 2018

MINUTES

PARENT FOCUS GROUP MEMBERS

School

Kevin Hogston	Headteacher & Chairman
Sophie Macartney	Assistant Headteacher

Parent Members

	Year Grp	Children
Sarah Veichmanis	Nursery	3, 1, Nurs
David Tyas	Nursery	3, Nurs
Gaya Nolan	Reception	Rec
Jared Griffiths	Reception	Rec
Lee Addis	Reception	Rec
Dmitry Rudenko	Year 1	1
Graham Ball	Year 1	1
Erin Bibby	Year 1	1
Jo Gerloch	Year 2	5, 2
Claire Price	Year 2	4, 2
Kate Perham	Year 3	6, 3
Gili Orbach	Year 3	6, 3
Jo Humphreys	Year 4	6, 4
Gavin Clarke	Year 4	4
Cathy Colnaghi	Year 5	5, 3, 1
Sarah Robinson	Year 6	6
Lorraine King	Year 6	6
Natalie O'Rourke	SEN	3, 1

Governors
Julia Combe
Denece Hart

CSA
Helen Samuel

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kevin Hogston (KH) welcomed the new members to the Parent Focus Group 2018/19 and thanked everyone for their interest and participation. The members have been chosen to represent different year groups across the school. Representatives from the CSA and the Governing Body have also been invited to join each meeting.

OUTLINE & OBJECTIVES OF THE GROUP

1. The Mission of the Parent Focus Group is:

To act as a focused sounding board for future ideas and events and to give constructive feedback.

2. The Objectives are:

a. To work in a positive partnership with the school.
b. To increase parental involvement and be another 'voice' of parents
c. To improve the learning experience of our children in school.
d. To help communicate issues to parents.

3. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting will be available on the website for all parents to access. The main agenda items for the next meeting will be decided at the end of the meeting to enable time for preparation and information gathering. AOBs will be brought forward on the agenda to allow time to discuss any important topics that arise.

Members are asked to read the Minutes of previous meetings to familiarise themselves with topics already discussed.

Please note: Parents can pass suggestions to members of the group, but the school would always encourage parents to speak to school directly if they have a particular issue.

WHAT'S WORKING WELL

1. Our Vision – the 5 Cs of Collis. After consultation with the children, staff, governors and last year's PFG and after much debate, the vision of the school has been summarised in five words: Care, Challenge, Collaboration, Courage, Creativity. Our Vision is at the heart of the school and the 5 Cs will be incorporated into all aspects of the children's learning and life at Collis.

2. Our school website is full of information. Parents are reminded to look regularly at the Year Group pages that contain detailed curriculum information and lots more.

3. The E-safety meeting held earlier this term was very well attended and very well received. The slides from the presentation are available on the website.

4. The NSPCC lead assemblies for KS1 & KS2 children and a workshop for Years 5&6 as part of our Wellbeing programme.

5. Gunnersbury Park Museum – Year 6 again experienced life at a Victorian school.

6. Music in school – Richmond Music Trust offers an introduction to singing and playing the violin or cello to all children in Year 3 during the Spring and Summer terms. The children can elect to continue studying in Year 4 as part of the Wider Opportunities Scheme. The new music rooms are excellent.

7. Curriculum meetings and classroom visits at the start of term for Years 1-6 were very well received by parents. A request was made for Reception to be included. The Leadership Team will look at including an additional Reception meeting in September alongside the 'Welcome to Collis meeting' prior to entry.

WELLBEING AT COLLIS

KH presented the school's plans to raise the profile of Wellbeing in school. Wellbeing is important to help children learn. Children can find it difficult to manage their emotions and so many issues can trigger larger problems that hinder their learning. The school feels we need this room for the following reasons:

1. Children learn and develop better when they are emotionally strong.
2. The rise in mental health issues in children is increasing at an alarming rate. Schools now have a duty to play a part in preventing future problems particularly during adolescence and early adulthood.
3. Schools are now advised to develop the emotional intelligent skills of their pupils. These so called 'soft skills' play an ever significant role in how we learn and interact with people. They play a huge part in how successful we will become in our personal and professional lives.
4. Millennials. The world is different now. The advancements and challenges of social media and increased screen time has radically increased the rise in pupil anxiety, sleep deprivation, eating issues and an increase of prescription drugs for depression and self-harm. Children need to be taught these skills at school so they are emotionally resilient.

Our new Wellbeing Room will be located in the spare Year 4 classroom. Work will begin over the half term holiday to refit the room. It will be timetabled for use by all classes to hold dedicated PSHE lessons. It will be a flexible space with many different activities for classes, small groups and clubs. Activities will include Circle Time, yoga, relaxation and storytelling.

Rachel Cronin is a teacher and play therapist. She joined us in September. Rachel is based in the spare classroom in Reception where she has a quiet space to work with children who need support.

Jigsaw is a scheme of learning that integrates personal, social and emotional health education with an emphasis on emotional literacy, mental health and spiritual development. It deals with all topics that come under the PSHE umbrella such as bullying, sex education, meditation, friendships and new beginnings. It will be used by all year groups including Nursery. Staff have been trained in its use and it has already been introduced into the curriculum.

KH will write to parents before half term to introduce our Wellbeing initiative. We will hold a launch of the new facilities and show parents examples of the work that will take place in the Wellbeing room.

CSA/FUND RAISING

The money raised by the CSA is essential to the school budget. This year the CSA is making a very significant contribution to the funding of two important projects, the Wellbeing room and the upgrade of our IT equipment. Without the support of the CSA these projects would not be possible.

The CSA is run by a handful of parents who do a huge amount of work. It really needs more volunteers to spread the load. Ways to get more parents involved were discussed. The discussion will continue at the next meeting. A Friday coffee morning has worked in the past with the school leadership team present.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

1. CSA – how we can encourage more support
2. Secondary School Transfer
3. School uniform from School Trends
4. Cloakroom management
5. Year 6 curriculum after SATs
6. CATS/Clubs
7. Sports Day
8. Attendance (holidays during term time)
9. Links with outside community

Meeting Dates 2018/19

Friday 30th November 2018 - 2.00pm
Friday 18th January 2019 - 2.00pm
Friday 8th March 2019 - 2.00pm
Friday 17th May 2019 - 2.00pm
Friday 21st June 2019 - 2.00pm