COLLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARENT FOCUS GROUP (PFG)
1st July 2016

MINUTES

PRESENT

School:

Kevin Hogston	Headteacher & Chair
Jane Way	Deputy Headteacher
Julia Combe	Governor

Parent members:

	Year Grp	Children	Representation
Nafisa Chomoko	Reception	Reception, Yr 4	
Rachel Derrick	Year 1	Yrs 1, 3, 5	SEN
Carolyn Jones	Year 2	Reception, Yr 2	
Amanda Eliades	Year 2	Yrs 2, 3, 6	
Maha Newell	Year 3	Yrs 1, 3, 5	Working parent
Kirsty Brown	Year 5	Yrs 2, 5	
Petra Fleming	Year 5	Rec, Yrs 5, 6	
Victoria Hodson	Year 6	Yrs 3, 6	Working parent
Nina Bradburn	Year 6	Yrs 1, 4, 6	

APOLOGIES

Sophie Kay	Assistant Headteacher
Denece Hart	Governor

Helen Danzey	Year 4	Yr 4	
Richard Sharples	Nursery	Nursery, Yr 2	Dads
Paul Dowsett	Reception	Reception	Dads
Jessica Petelin	Year 1	Yr 1	
Pauliina Purnell	Year 4	Yr 4	Working parent
Heather Tomlinson	Year 3	Yrs 3, 6	

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.

WHAT'S WORKING WELL - POSITIVE FEEDBACK

1. With funding from the CSA, a new sound system has been installed in the new hall, with new mics and speakers. Very easy to use, it is a huge improvement on our old system. A big thank you to the CSA.

2. Very successful visit for Reception children to Bockett's Farm this week, which was then the theme of Friday's assembly for parents.

3. Thanks for regular Isle of Wight updates for the Yr6 parents.

4. Bounce-a-thon – the children loved it.

5. Our school orchestra took part in a huge concert of 600 children from all schools in the borough at St Mary's University. It was a fabulous evening and a great opportunity for the children.

DRESSING UP DAYS

Concern was raised about the number of dressing up days there are during the year. Not all children enjoy dressing up and some parents, especially those with two or three children, find creating suitable outfits can be burdensome. KH agreed there were probably a few too many and it was agreed that we will aim for one per term, plus a class assembly.

UNIFORM

Concerns were raised about our school uniform not being uniform enough, that having a choice of colour does not make the children look very smart and when out on school visits, they are not so easily identifiable amongst other schools. However, after discussion by the group most preferred not to change the current arrangements. KH reported that Governors are currently discussing uniform.

SEN FEEDBACK

Rachel Derrick has worked with Sally Franklin (SENCo) to produce a one-page Guide to Autism. Its aim is to give parents and children a better understanding and knowledge. The guide is complete and will soon be available on the school website.

PARENT FOCUS GROUP 2016/17

KH thanked everyone for being part of the group, its feedback has been very helpful in enabling the school to make good decisions. As many parents are keen to join the group, it is proposed to change the membership next year, while maintaining representation from each year group, working parents, dads and SEN. The group felt that some continuity of existing members would useful. KH to discuss with the leadership team.

AOB

1. Birthday sweets. A request to parents to consider healthier alternatives to birthday sweets will again be made in the newsletter in September.

2. Parent Information meetings at the start of the Autumn term will be at 9.00 am, rather than 2.30 pm, to make it easier for working parents to attend.

3. More clubs before and after school will be offered in September which will help parents with childcare. Parents will be invited to sign up at the start of next term although the outline and costs of clubs will be made available at the end of this term.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: TBC

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Autumn Term 2016