COLLIS PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARENT FOCUS GROUP
6th November 2015

MINUTES

PARENT FOCUS GROUP MEMBERS

School:

Kevin Hogston	Headteacher & Chairman
Jane Way	Deputy Headteacher
Sophie Macartney	Assistant Headteacher

Parent members:

	Year Grp	Children	Representation
Richard Sharples	Nursery	Nursery, Yr 2	Dads
Paul Dowsett	Reception	Reception	Dads
Nafisa Chomoko	Reception	Reception, Yr 4	
Rachel Derrick	Year 1	Yrs 1, 3, 5	SEN
Jessica Petelin	Year 1	Yr 1	
Carolyn Jones	Year 2	Reception, Yr 2	
Amanda Eliades	Year 2	Yrs 2, 3, 6	
Maha Newell	Year 3	Yrs 1, 3, 5	Working parents
Heather Tomlinson	Year 3	Yrs 3, 6	
Helen Danzey	Year 4	Yr 4	
Pauliina Purnell	Year 4	Yr 4	Working parents
Kirsty Brown	Year 5	Yrs 2, 5	
Petra Fleming	Year 5	Rec, Yrs 5, 6	
Victoria Hodson	Year 6	Yrs 3, 6	Working parents
Nina Bradburn	Year 6	Yrs 1, 4, 6	

Apologies:
Governing Body representative – Denece Hart

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Kevin Hogston (KH) welcomed all members to the first meeting of the Parent Focus Group and thanked everyone for their interest and participation. KH explained that 52 applications had been received from parents who wished to join the Parent Focus Group. The members have been chosen to represent each year group (out of a hat), alongside the areas of SEN, dads and working parents.

Members are invited to stay with the group for as long as they have a child in school. When vacancies arise the Headteacher will invite other parents to join, still keeping a representation from the groups listed above. A representative from the CSA and Governing Body will also be 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 put on the website for all parents to access. The main agenda items for the next meeting will be decided at the end of each meeting to enable time for preparation and information gathering. There will always be an AOB section to the meeting.

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.

PLAYING FIELDS AND SITE SAFETY

KH explained that the school is concerned about the safety of the children playing on the school field after hours. We also have many after school sports clubs using the field and children who attend CATS.

The school gates currently remain open until 4.00 pm. Ofsted has recently changed its guidance making schools more accountable for safety and school boundaries must be made secure. Ultimately the school is responsible for safety after hours. There was a general discussion about the field usage after school.

KH and the Leadership Team therefore took the decision, earlier this term, to ask parents to leave the school site promptly at the end of the day. Many parents were unhappy with this decision saying it was a valuable green space for children to let off steam after school, and parents valued the time to chat and catch up.

The school recognises that it has a wonderful resource and the children should be allowed to use it. It does not want to upset parents, therefore KH proposed a compromise. An area of the field will be sectioned off and supervised by parents. The climbing frame will be out of bounds. Children will be allowed to play there until 3.45 pm. At that time all parents and children not involved in a club must leave the school site. The gates will be closed.

This proposal was warmly approved by all group members.

This policy will be explained to the children at the next whole school assembly and will be conveyed to parents in the school newsletter.

Concern was expressed that some classes do not finish promptly at 3.20 pm each day.
KH will remind staff to be punctual. **Action: KH**

HEALTHY SCHOOL including birthday sweets/school lunches/playground snacks

The school tradition of a child giving sweets to the class on their birthday was discussed at length. Members were concerned about the quantity of sweets being handed out and parents not having any control over what is given to their children.

Collis School has a Healthy Eating Policy and the dangers of sugar are currently very topical.

The point was made that it is nice that the child is giving something to the class and alternatives were discussed such as a small toy, or a healthier treat. Concerns were also raised about unhealthy snacks such as crisps and chocolate at playtime.

A shortage of time meant this issue could not be discussed fully. KH therefore proposed that members should speak to other parents and discuss alternatives and it would be an agenda item at the next meeting. **Action: ALL**

AOB

School Funding – KH explained that the school does not receive full funding because we do not have many SEN children, we have few children eligible for free school meals and we are not affiliated to a church. He highlighted the importance of the CSA and would like to discuss how to encourage more participation from our huge parent body at the next meeting.

Dates of next meetings:

The group will meet once each half-term. It was agreed that there will be a mixture of day-time and evening meetings. The following dates were agreed for 2015/16:

Friday, 4 December, 2.00 pm
Tuesday, 26 January, 6.00 pm
Friday, 18 March, 2.00 pm
Tuesday, 17 May, 6.00 pm
Friday, 1 July, 2.00 pm