

Cardinal Hume Catholic School

Parent Partners Meeting - LPPA

Date:
25/01/2017

Time:
6pm

Venue:
CHCS

Apologies: - D Cook, D Addison, J Rahmann

Present:- R Flint, M Ndam, F Brennan, M Hopwood, L Maguire, G Bolton, K Flynn

Topics discussed:-

1. Response to Transition questionnaire
2. 'My Child at school'
3. Curriculum summaries
4. AOB

Comments;

Response to Transition Questionnaire

- On the whole the response to the questionnaire was very positive with almost 50% of parents completing a return. Some of the issues arising were discussed as follows:-

Non catholic feeder school parents expressed concern at a lack of earlier opportunities to visit CHCS during Y5 and Y6 - It is felt that it is impossible to target all schools that may send a child to CHCS, however a family learning flyer is issued by the Family Learning team to enable the parents to access school for these sessions should they wish to do so. This information is also available on the school website.

Practicalities – It was felt that where children expressed concerns about moving class for each subject, this was all part of settling in and adjusting to secondary school life. Pricing of items in the school canteen are available on the school website.

Challenging levels of homework – Levels of homework affect children differently. Primary schools also differ in their approach to homework levels so again this is a concern that should ease after a settling in period.

Buses – Insufficient room on the 878. It was felt that this is no longer an issue but would continue to be monitored.

Lack of awareness of admissions policy and stress caused by having to appeal - The policy is clearly stated on the school website and from that the likelihood of securing a place can be seen. Ros has however suggested that she include a reminder during the transition events to alert parents that it is possible that not all children attending these events would necessarily be offered a place.

Stress due to strictness of school culture – It was agreed that the school implements the level of strictness that is necessary to promote good behaviour to facilitate learning and to instill a level of respect in all children. Nick Hurn clearly states at the Year 6 Presentation Evenings that anyone wishing to come to CHCS and their parents must expect to follow the rules for the benefit of all.

It was suggested that if the questionnaire were issued again at the end of Year 7, many of the issues raised may well have resolved themselves. Children will then have settled into school life. Ros will plan to issue the questionnaire again in June, changing the questions slightly for currency and with some additional questions to capture what activities children have become involved with during Year 7. Children may also be asked to complete a questionnaire to get their perspective. Capturing the information with the use of an application such as Survey Monkey may also be an idea as many parents will be familiar with the method of data capture.

Curriculum Summaries

- Parents would like to use the curriculum content on the website to forward plan with their child the topic that would next be covered in a subject in school. Consideration to be given to how the content is listed and guidance given on the website as to whether the school lessons will follow this list accurately. **Update 25/1/17 – Ros issued and requested feedback on an example of an English curriculum summary which had been prepared. This was well received with only one additional suggestion to include how often the Assessments would take place, within the Assessment column. This template will now be put forward for discussion within school.**
- It was felt that the website contained old information. It has been suggested in the past that the date be listed alongside the topic in the school letters section so parents can easily see what is relevant to them before opening. This was agreed as an idea that would be very helpful. Old information is useful to see what type of activity takes place at school but the date would be needed. **Update 25/1/17 – This is still a work in progress**

My Child at school

- The new school App was again praised as a great way for parents to keep up to date easily with school activities. The 'My Child at school' portal is being trialled with Year 10 and Year 13 parents with the intention of rolling it out to the full school. Mrs Ndam logged into this area as a Year 10 parent to show the information that is available. It is thought that following rollout the portal will be available via the school app.
- It was questioned whether the Mock exam results for Year 11 will be included on this webpage and whether the ability to advise school of a child's absence on this site could be arranged. It is Often phoning the school between 8am and school starting is not possible, particularly if this is commute time to work for parents. Being able to access this website and enter the absence before leaving home would be of great benefit. School would then need to also access the site to gather this information each morning.

AOB

- Consultation days in the new format, with subject teachers instead of tutors, have not yet been held for the parents present. At the next meeting it will be interesting to obtain feedback particularly from the parents who will by then have experienced both methods. The initial appointment for Year 7 parents to meet the tutors was well received.
- There is now a link on the school website for parents who are not comfortable with the English Language (ESOL). This link takes you direct to a Gateshead Council site detailing courses that are available in which to enrol if desired. To assist further however it was suggested that looking at other organisations websites, such as HMRC and NHS might be beneficial to see how those organisations signpost towards a potential translation option, including getting some ideas for a potential logo perhaps using different countries flags.

Date:
Thursday 23/03/17

Time:
6pm

Venue:
School