

# Parent Forum

## Minutes from the meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017

### Present:

Gary & Amanda Mayhew – Parents  
Lisa Green – Parent  
Lynne Rosier – Carer  
Christine Weaver – Parent  
Angela Ralf – Parent  
Jacqui Foulds – Parent  
Chowdhury & Nazma Yesmin – Parent  
Diane Brown - Parent  
Sharon Bremner – Family Liaison Officer  
Jeremy Edwards – Deputy Head Teacher

### Apologies:

Kerry Smith – Parent  
Karen & Toni Stagg - Parent  
Steve Cook - Parent

	<p>Sharon reminded parents that everybody has a voice and should be allowed to be heard and make comments in an environment that is comfortable and welcoming. (Golden Rules!)</p> <p>The minutes from the last meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017 were read out and each point was discussed:</p>
1.	<p><b>School Playgrounds:</b></p> <p>Jeremy spoke about the progress on phase one of the playgrounds. There is funding to complete the playgrounds in the infant department. Work is hopefully going to start in August to install the equipment.</p> <p>Phase two playground project, for the juniors, will begin on completion of phase 1. Jeremy explained that there is a dedicated team in place who liaise about the playgrounds and a fundraiser who is putting in bids all the time, to support this project.</p>
2.	<p><b>Fencing:</b></p> <p><b>At the meeting held in May, parents voiced their concern about the fencing at the bottom of the school.</b></p> <p>Playground fencing at the back of the school is a 6ft wire fence. Behind this fence is a popular path/track that dog walkers use and has access to a Farm. It was discussed that this fence should be more closed to the public. Having only a wire fence between dog walkers, photography and other school's pupils etc. doesn't seem very secure or safe.</p>

	<p><u>Action: 4.5.17</u>  <u>Sharon to forward parents concern to SLT:</u>  <i>The issue of fencing was discussed by SLT Meeting on 09.05.17. It was agreed that this is not ideal for our student's safety or privacy. It was agreed that wooden fencing similar to the fencing installed down the side of the school to be funded and installed.</i>  Jeremy said that there will be a delay in the fence being erected, now phase one of the playground project is near completion, digging equipment will need to have access to the site. It would be impractical to install the fencing then remove it to complete the playground in the infants' department, over the month of August.</p> <p><b>School facilities:</b>  Hydrotherapy Pool update. The pool is ready for students to start to have their therapy. We would like students to start accessing it this term. Jeremy explained the pool manufacturers have trained the site staff. Staff training has begun.  Jeremy and Chris Holmes have completed the Risk Assessments; this includes emergency evacuations of the pool complex. The policy is complete and has been sent to KCC for approval, when it returns it will go to the school Governors for ratification. Everything needs to be in place for the safety of students and staff.  The class teams have been provided with a referral system, this will be for students who have a programme in place, to support their therapy. Jeremy and Chris Holmes will go through the forms and assess them against the criteria.  The therapy will be regular for the students who will benefit from it on a therapeutic level.</p>
3.	<p><b>Questions asked: 4<sup>th</sup> May.</b>  Can students do cycling Proficiency or have a cycling club.</p> <p>Sharon fed back information about Cycling Proficiency Training that KCC offer. Students will need to be able to ride their own bike. They will be required to wear a helmet and Hi-Vis jacket. Children will need to have access to a bike that is roadworthy. To get the KCC team in, they would need a sign-up of 12 students at a charge of £5-£10 depending on year group.  It was agreed that this training may be too intense for our students. Only a few students can ride a bike, but not have the road sense to go out onto the streets to practice.  A parent suggested a cycling club to run at school. She said that parents could support with the group.  Jeremy said that riding a trike/bike will be on some student's therapy programmes, and used in PE sessions. But not all students will have this in place. The school has many bikes/trikes of varying sizes that all students can have access to them at break times. Jeremy informed parents that next year we will acquire some hand cycling bikes for students to use.</p>

**Action:**

Sharon to look into offering a cycling club for students who want to learn to ride a bike.

**Car Park:**

A parent submitted a question to the forum who could not attend the meeting.

*Why is there no CCTV in the car park or front of the school?*

Ever entry and exit has CCTV system in place, that is monitored in the main reception. All external doors can only be opened with the correct swipe/intercom system. This fits I with building regulations and standard builds for new schools. The sole purpose of this is to monitor who enters and exits the building for the safety and protection of students, staff and visitors.

**Car park Space:**

A parent agreed that there is not much that can be done about the situation now, but wanted to make a comment about the small parking bays /spaces at school.

Jeremy commented that most parents may have a Blue Badge, but the bays in front of the school are reserved for students who require a lowered curb and more length space to accommodate a lift. These students have to rely on wheelchairs. Parents who have lifts on their vehicles have commented that the bollards on the pavement are not in the best positions to wheel the chairs from the back of their vehicles. (They are in the way) It was suggested that some of the larger vans with lifts could park in the Bus bays when the car park is congested and the bays in the front of the school have all been taken.

**Action:**

Sharon to discuss this with the site/traffic/ management team

**Speeding cars:**

The conversation went on to the speeding cars that go along the road to The secondary school next door. It was agreed that some cars travel too fast. Adrian Mount the Head Teacher put into place from day one, that staff will be positioned at strategic places in Hi-Vis jackets.

We are ensuring the safety of our parents and students but also the students walking to the secondary school.

Jeremy agreed that traffic can moves fast, especially cars going to Royal Harbour Academy school. To make sure our pupils are safe staff are in place on the main road at the start and end of each day. We have agreed to pay for a sleeping policeman and safety signs to be installed to improve traffic calming.

**Students leaving school:**

It was pointed out that some students from the secondary department are just leaving the building and walking/running to get on to their bus.

Sharon said that some students will be allowed to do this because they are working on their independent skills. But this should be done in a safe way.

The lower school students should always be escorted to their transport.

	<p>Jeremy asked Sharon to bring this up with the class teams.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Sharon to talk in briefing about the procedure for students leaving the building at the end of the day.</p>
4.	<p><b>Update from DHT:</b></p> <p><b>Foreland Fest:</b> All students from Garlinge and Hartsdown will be at Foreland Fields School for the annual festival. Last week of term.</p> <p><b>School Uniform:</b> Uniform for Key Stage 3 &amp; 4 from September or any student moving into year 9 to stay in school uniform until year 11. Current students already in non-school uniform can choose.</p> <p><b>Class List for next year:</b> Very involved process, new referrals coming into school. Transition for students to go into their new class being arranged. Students and parents will be notified 1 week before the transitions start to take place.</p> <p><b>Sports day times:</b> A parent asked what time the sports day will be.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Sharon to put times onto the school website blog.</p>
5.	<p><b>Parents comments:</b> Some parents could not make the meeting but left the following comments.</p> <p>Dear Adrian I apologise that I can't attend the Parent Forum this time. We are very happy with the new school. We feel that CL needs are being met in every way. We feel that all the staff are passionate in their job and do the best they can.</p> <p>We are pleased how well CL has settled into the new school and we have no concerns. Thank you to you all for the continued support throughout the years.</p> <p>Hi, Thanks for the invite unfortunately I will not be able to make the Forum. Having worked in a school for a lot of years I can appreciate all that staff do for the young people, so dedicated. Always advice offered and very friendly. My only concern is can you maintain such a high standard, the proof for me is JS loves school and that's so important. Thank you.</p> <p>Sharon read out the above messages. The parents in the room agreed and clapped their appreciation.</p> <p>Thank you</p>

**Date of Next meeting: Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 1.30pm – 2-45pm**

It has been suggested, that not all parents, who would like to attend the Parent Forum are able to, because of work commitments. It was agreed to alternated the times of the meetings. The next meeting will take place in the afternoon 1.30pm – 2.45pm