

Parents' Forum meetings - minutes

Date of meeting	24.09.15
People present	Approx 30 parents Frances Davis, HT Deborah Arnold, Chair of Governors.

Minutes of the meeting

Parents were given the full length of the meeting to raise their questions, opinions, comments and concerns regarding the most recent communication from the governors about the planned expansion and taking children in 2016 in demountables situated at the far end of the car park or taking children in 2017 when the building project is fully completed.

Mrs Davis is meeting with the Surrey team in early October to listen to their proposition about the location of the demountables (they are very modern, have internet and wifi connections, are visually attractive places inside for children to learn and come with their own toilets). She will be negotiating hard to get the best offer for the year 3 children. Governors will meet in mid October to review this information with the aim of communicating to parents before half term on the issue of taking Year 3 children in 2016 or 2017.

If demountables are in the car park then the school will ensure the absolute safety for children and have very clear routes for the children to take in and out of school. The school leadership need to consider how the space for PE lessons, outside play and lunchtimes is organised so that the learning of all children in school remains outstanding.

With this delay to the building programme Mrs Davis will seek assurance from Surrey that they would be finished so that Year 4 with Year 3 would go into the new building and another set of demountables would not be needed.

Parents have until January 15th 2016 to make their application for a Reception and / or Year 3 place.

Mrs Davis has been told by Oliver Gill, the schools commissioning officer:

1. How is the sibling rule is guaranteed for those applying online? Oliver Gill spoke to Admissions, who said it is as simple as the parent ticking the relevant box and entering the sibling's details. This is equally applicable to children transitioning from Y2 to Y3 in 2016.
2. What about the scenarios in which a child entering YR gets in on the basis of sibling preference, yet the sibling ultimately leaves the school in Y3 (for example, going to Priory)? Oliver said, the answer to this is that this would **not** retrospectively invalidate the sibling's entry into YR. The sibling rule criterion is assessed as at the application closing date in January and, if there is a child on roll in Y2 at your school at that point, then they serve for the purposes of the sibling rule at your school, no matter where they ultimately end up.

As this meeting didn't address other school comments an additional date has been set for 9.00 – 9.30am on Tuesday 29th September.

TO ADD TO THE PARENTS' FORUM MINUTES

It is hard, for Mrs Davis, to lead the parents' forum, answer questions, listen to comments and take minutes. As a result these two points have been added to the minutes. Thanks go to parents who have emailed in / talked to Mrs Davis.

Additional points to the minutes:

Voluntary straw poll of current year 2 parents

It is very hard for the school leadership and governors to have any idea as to what parents are thinking in regard to their child staying on in year 3 at Reigate Parish. So the year 2 parent reps suggested carrying out a straw poll. The governors appreciate that the straw poll is not binding. School is aware that some parents would have already made their minds up and we know from our school data who have siblings elsewhere and so likely to move on. The poll is purely information for governors as there is lots of other information they will use when they meet before half term. The data from the poll will be communicated to parents. However, in the future if parents need to be canvassed for their idea on a school matter then it will be co-ordinated through school.

Use of RGS facilities

The headmaster of Reigate Grammar School (RGS) and Mrs Davis have agreed to talk about how/when RGS sporting facilities can be accessed by Parish children. The statement issued in June was placed in good faith, but since then it has been necessary to clarify, from both schools to their parents that nothing has been formally agreed between the schools, but there is a commitment from Mr Fenton (the Headmaster of RGS) and Mrs Davis to talk about what could happen when RGS students are not using their sporting facilities. It was always the case, and the governors were aware, that PE lessons would happen foremost on school grounds. Everyone, senior staff, governors and parents, were concerned about having access to outdoor space, in particular for the older year 5 and 6 children, to practice the skills they have learnt in a game scenario. The chair of governors was at the Parents' Forum and the governors receive these minutes. It is the governors' decision whether to enter into another consultation period with parents over this point.