



# Ash Croft Primary Academy Parent Forum with CEO

## Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018

### Attendees:

5 Parents/Carers/Grandparents  
 Anthony Hughes – CEO of Harmony Trust  
 Penny Brown – Executive Principal  
 Manpreet Ubhie – Head of Academy  
 Kash Khunkhuna – Office Administrator

Thank you to the parents who attended our Parent Forum.

Discussion Point	Notes
<b>1. Welcome</b>	<p>CEO welcomed all the parents/carers/grandparents who attended the first parent forum for this year with him.</p> <p>AH highlighted that it was one of his priorities to meet parents, pupils and staff at least once a term at each of his Academies.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> To see more parents at the next forum</p>
<b>2. Minutes from last forum</b>	<p>Picking up procedures – PB commented that we are continuing to monitor and assess to see if this is working.</p> <p>Parents agreed that it was working and there currently was no better solution.</p> <p>School Money – will be in place by Spring 2019 <b>Action</b> - KK</p>
<b>3. Open Discussion</b>	<p><b>Parking</b> – parent mentioned that parking on the yellow lines had become an issue and it was concerning that one car was parking on the lines on a regular basis.</p> <p><b>Action</b> - PB will monitor and the office will report to necessary department.</p> <p><b>Class Dojo</b> – parents said it was good and some teachers were excellent in using the platform. Some parents expressed that all communication re school put on via the class dojo.</p> <p>MU stated that Class Dojo was a school wide priority in regarding the communication we send out to parents. Currently we let the class teachers communicate class messages/reminders/achievements and whole school communication in terms of letters are done through the school office.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – MU to assess the usage across the whole school.</p>

<p><b>4. Communication</b></p>	<p>MU discussed parent-school communication and opened the discussion wanting parents comments/suggestions.</p> <p>A parent mentioned that the volume of letters was a lot – 2/3 a week, plus text and some children were not bringing letters home or showing them to parents.</p> <p>Parents stated that they would like an App/email system.</p> <p>MU stated that this was in progression and we are moving to a more stream lined approach to communication and letters coming home.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – MU and KK School Spider App in progression will be fully rolled out by Spring 2019</p>
<p><b>5. Year 6</b></p>	<p>A comment was raised re the teacher changes and what was happening and how children felt pressured.</p> <p>CEO reassured parents that this is major initiative within the trust to support the Year 6 and introducing a range of support.</p> <p>Parents would like Yr 6 parent meetings to be more accessible in terms of timings.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – MU to arrange meeting times.</p> <p>PB said if parents are struggling to attend parent meetings we can arrange individual meetings to help support parents.</p> <p><b>Parental Engagement</b></p> <p>The Trust is heavily involved in supporting parents and students with year 6 transition and SATs.</p> <p>Parents commented that Mrs Barnes will a big loss to the school. This was echoed by PB and MU.</p>
<p><b>6. Staffing and Recruitment</b></p>	<p>A parent mentioned that she had noticed a big staff turnover over the years and this relay's negativity with parents and children.</p> <p>CEO stated that this was a big issue in Oldham with staff retention and high rate of recruitment problems. This is a similar problem with all the schools in Derby.</p> <p>In Oldham they moved to more of a strategic move and provide with support to help resolve these issues. The power of working together helps to factor in retaining good staff.</p> <p>Teachers have more incentive to stay in. Harmony Trust are heavily investing in staff – providing them with report writing day,</p>

	<p>10 days of training, high qualified training, 3.5% teacher pay increase. – more stability.</p> <p>In terms of moving staff around schools, staff are ambitious and we have to support their progression to improve and do well. Unplanned moves in-year are not what we want to encourage.</p> <p>Parents commented they were over the moon that Mrs Goodlip coming back to Ash Croft. Parents also mentioned a number of staff who were working exceptionally well and they were very happy with their children's teachers.</p> <p>PB informed parents of the current recruitments made to Ash Croft and the trust.</p> <p>We have successfully appointed a member of staff who will be working in Year 6 as a Senior Leader on a part-time basis.</p> <p>The trust has appointed a number of new teachers; we will have two new teachers based at Ash Croft.</p> <p>PB finished off the discussions stating that the recent recruitments have attracted high calibre people.</p>
<b>7. Parent Questionnaires</b>	<p>Parent Questionnaires – this is a yearly task usually done in February. Parents have asked for more feedback opportunities.</p> <p>MU commented that we are always open for suggestions and regularly ask parents for their contributions/comments/suggestions/opinions, we have an open-door policy.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – MU questionnaires on a schedule basis.</p>
<b>8. Trim Trail</b>	<p>MU announced that the Trim Trail had been approved by the Trust and that the next stage is for the School Council to work on a project plan to develop the trail. Time frames for completion might be Easter holidays/Summer holidays.</p> <p>MU thanked parents for all their contribution.</p> <p><b>Actions</b> – School Council to produce a plan of action.</p>
<b>9. Fundraising</b>	<p>This year the focus for fundraising is to support the library.</p> <p>CEO commented that we will be using funds from the Foyle Foundation who provide grant funding to support libraries in schools. The funding will be matched funded by the Academy and the Trust.</p> <p>The money to support the library is for the hard infrastructure/library books/ software and IT equipment.</p>

	<p>Parents mentioned would it be helpful if we could donate good books to schools – PB said this would be welcomed with support – Books/Magazines.</p> <p>A parent raised a comment that children would like to use IT to access the Accelerated Reader at home and in class.</p> <p>MU will look at supporting this in class time.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – PB and MU on-going fundraising events and applying for grant funding</p>
<b>10. Any other business</b>	<p><b>TA</b></p> <p>A comment was made re the TA support in Year 6.</p> <p>MU stated that every year has TA support but Year 6 has a full time TA.</p> <p><b>Smoking</b></p> <p>Parents were concerned that a number of parents were standing in front of the school smoking and this was not appropriate.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – MU to ask parents to kindly stop smoking in front of the school.</p> <p><b>OFSTED</b></p> <p>Parents commented that the OFSTED report does not actually reflect the school and how they felt. Their children are happy and doing well.</p> <p>MU commented that the school is dealing with every area that the OFSTED highlighted and continue to improve and strive for the best.</p>
<b>11. Closing comments from CEO</b>	<p>CEO thanked the parents that attended the first parent forum with him. He stressed to the parents to 'keep asking that question'.</p> <p>CEO highlighted that the major challenge for the school is that it is not full and that will impact on budgets. Also that we need to celebrate the success.</p>