

## **Brookhurst Parents' Forum**

**Combined minutes taken from both morning and evening meetings.**

**25<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

### **Present:**

Angela Stanton (HT), Mark Hughes (DHT), Claire Cobbard (F, 4), Indi Kalm (5 and 6) Mara Kefalopoulou (1) Sarah Marshall (F, 2, 5 & 6), Andy Daniels (5), Simone Strimber Varon (2) Leon Hurst (F, 2 and 5) Karen Mothersdale (2 and 5) Penny Hawkins (5 and 6)

### **Agenda**

#### **1.) School Marketing**

Angela Stanton (AS) showed the Parents' Forum a map of the school catchment area, which includes a large expanse of green belt land and an uninhabited space towards the south of the area. An under-populated catchment area has meant that Brookhurst has always taken a number of pupils each year from out of catchment. For 2015, the year group statistics are:

54% - year 6  
43% - year 5  
46% - year 4  
52% - year 3  
28% - year 2  
25% - year 1  
37% - foundation

This is currently at 39% of the pupil population. With the advent of three new schools being planned in the local area; two primary schools (based in Harbury lane and Banbury Road) and a 3- 19 academy school on the Myton Road, there could be a dip in admissions at Brookhurst with both funding and staffing implications.

The forum discussed the factors that make parents choose Brookhurst School, of which the following were cited.

- SAT results
- Friendly office staff
- Informative and engaging website
- Children that are proud when showing families around the school
- Open green spaces, including the spinney
- Meeting with the head teacher on preliminary visit

The forum discussed how to continue to build on the positive marketing of the school with the following suggestions:

- **Action:** Parents to continue to promote Brookhurst School, with an understanding that parental recommendation is key to the school's continuing success.

- **Action:** to follow up on all families that visit Brookhurst to see if they go on to choose the School for their child and if not, why?
- **Action:** to ensure that the school takes advantage of free advertising on Google Ads – AD to forward the relevant form to AS

AS also discussed the high levels of transience at Brookhurst School. Currently 29% of year 5 children arrived after foundation. This could be mainly due to professionals coming to live in the area for a short period of time. It was noted that this increase of newly arrived pupils benefits the school's ambience; however there is also often an upfront cost implication to support these children in developing their language skills.

## 2.) New curriculum and assessment framework

In light of national reform of the school curriculum across the key stages, AS reiterated the changes and implications for Brookhurst School. The new criteria of assessment is now measured as:

- Working towards the expected standard
- Working at the expected standard
- Working at greater depth within the expected standard

All pupils will begin each new academic year as 'working towards the expected standard' in each subject and progress as the year continues. The new assessment framework will focus on 'deepening the pupils' learning' in a particular topic, rather than moving them onto new higher learning.

Brookhurst School has a clear strategy to track all pupils' progress and to support them to move to the next appropriate level. The Autumn Term focus has had an intense focus on identifying the levels of all 'SEND' and 'pupil premium' pupils. The need to focus on all pupils at all levels was discussed and agreed. There was an acknowledgement that professional development will be required for some teachers to allow them to explore how to 'deepen their pupils learning' in different topics, particularly where there is a new curriculum offer. All staff have attended a session on the new curriculum expectations of Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPAG).

The need for clarity and explicit communication to parents was discussed. It was agreed that the school would publish a document detailing the changes to the curriculum and assessment and impact for families / pupils. This would be published separately (but alongside) the newsletter. This publication should also be available for distribution at the front of school. The possibility of a 'pod cast' was discussed, in which the changes could be explained clearly as an alternative means of communication to the written paper. It was later suggested that this could be in the form of a 'Question and Answer' session.

**Action:** LH / PO offered to review the document from a parent's perspective prior to publication.

**Action:** AD offered to add the document to the website with navigation instructions.

In light of the new curriculum, the forum asked about the timing of the current 'spring term' written pupil report. As the report is produced early in the spring term, there is a possibility that many pupils will still be 'working towards the expected standard'. This creates a stronger need for a summative response at the end of the academic year to report on the progress made throughout the year. Although the timing of the school reports will not change this year, this will be discussed at SMT for future years. In the meantime, **AS** agreed to publish an 'end of term document' which states the attainment in reading writing and maths for each pupil, along with their attendance data.

**Action:** SMT to discuss timing of the school report in light of curriculum changes

**Action:** The school to produce an 'end of term document' which states the attainment in reading, writing and maths for each pupil.

**AOB**

### **Resources for Families**

- It was suggested that the 'family learning resources' on the website could be promoted in the newsletter / website. For example the six-minute times table papers and the glossary of terms for preparation year 6 SATS are both useful to support learning.

**Action:** MH to publish a link in the newsletter

- One parent requested that another 'maths session for parents' was arranged.

**Action:** MH to arrange in the autumn term

- Two policies are still under review on the website – E-learning and Drugs policy.
- One parent asked if there had been any research carried out into the use of 'mathletics' and the increased knowledge and understanding in the maths curriculum.
- One parent asked if 'touch typing' could be on the curriculum.

**Action:** MH to investigate questions above.

### **Date of next meeting**

**April 2016 - tbc**

**9.00am – 9.50am / 7.00pm – 7.50pm**