



Parent Forum Minutes – 13 October 2025

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Chambers (Director of Education) provided a brief overview of the purpose of the Parent Forum. Attendees included 19 parents (14 in person and 5 online), alongside staff representatives including Miss Byrne (Acting Headteacher).

School Dinners

- Parents were updated on the implementation of a new school menu since the last forum.
 - A request was made to reinstate wraps, with discussion around ensuring substantial filling options.
 - Parents responded positively to the hot meal choices and requested clarification for children that a piece of fruit may be taken in addition to pudding.
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Parent Curriculum Sharing Events

- Parents expressed interest in learning more about the curriculum, particularly the school's approach to Reading.
- Concerns were raised regarding inconsistency in reading book distribution, changes, and the use of reading logs.
- Some parents noted limited library visits for certain year groups.
- Miss Byrne shared that a review of the school's Reading culture is underway.
- Subject leaflets outlining pupil entitlement and expectations will be developed and distributed before half term, including guidance for parental support at home.
- A parent suggested an online safety drop-in session; Miss Byrne will liaise with the computing lead to organise this for Autumn Term 2.

Opportunities for Parent Volunteers

- The positive impact of the Gardening Club was highlighted, including its community engagement through produce sold at the local Farmers' Market.
- Mr. Chambers encouraged further parent involvement and outlined the volunteer process (completion of a support staff application form and initiation of DBS checks).
- Interested parents were invited to contact Miss Byrne.

Headteacher Absence

- Mr. Chambers confirmed that the substantive Headteacher has not yet returned and committed to updating parents as soon as possible.
- Parents voiced concerns about leadership continuity, noting multiple headteachers in recent years.
- Mr. Chambers acknowledged these concerns and confirmed that Miss Byrne will continue in her role throughout the academic year to ensure stability.
- Parents expressed disappointment at the late notice regarding the departure of the Executive Headteacher; Mr. Chambers explained that the timing was the earliest feasible.
- Falling pupil numbers and community reputation were discussed, with low local birth rates cited as a contributing factor.
- Mr. Chambers reassured parents that there are no financial concerns at the partnership level and committed to maintaining clear and regular communication.
- A parent awaiting a response to a letter submitted to GLP was informed that a reply has been drafted and will be sent shortly.
- Concerns were raised about increasing needs in certain year groups and the impact on provision in a one-form entry school. Staff confirmed that specialist and outreach support is being provided.

Open Discussion

- Parents acknowledged many positive changes over the past year, particularly in the school environment and practice.
- A desire for continued stability was expressed to support children in a small, community-focused setting.

- Homework preferences varied, with some parents favouring formal written tasks and others noting potential challenges. Miss Byrne proposed a blended approach, including longer-term project-based homework.
 - Parents were reminded that feedback can be submitted via Eduario Surveys, which are reviewed and actioned by GLP and headteachers.
 - A request was made for a broader range of after-school clubs.
 - Concerns were raised about the school entrance, with parents asking whether the front entrance could be reopened. Mr. Chambers will contact operations for an update.
 - Overcrowding at the main entrance was discussed, with suggestions to open gates earlier to allow waiting inside the playground. Safeguarding implications were noted.
 - SEND assessment pathways were discussed, with a request for clearer communication regarding school support and external agency assessments.
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Next Meeting

Mr. Chambers confirmed that he will meet with parents again from a partnership perspective before the end of the Autumn Term. Date to be confirmed.