

Parent Voice Minutes 13th June 2023

Attended: H McVicar- (H MV), N Cairns (NCI), D Hulbert (13), R Swann (13) , K Godfrey (10 and 13), A Kennan (13), V Newton (8 and 11), J Nightingale Newton (9), A Hole (7 and 12), H Payton (11), C Gunn (9), N Askew (7) and D Field (9)

Agenda item	Item raised	Discussion point	Action required	Outcome (to date)
Minutes	Exam study leave	It was pointed out that many students had multiple exams before their study leave started. H MV explained that a decision was made not to send on early study leave as it was more beneficial for students to continue to be taught up to the exams and access face to face interventions.	-	
	Teachers' strike	A parent thanked school for minimising impact on exam year groups. Strike covered in General School later.	H MV to pass on thanks to staff	
General school	Inclusion strategy	<p>H MV acknowledged that this is still work in progress. School trying to embed our values.</p> <p>RSW asked H MV to provide an explanation of the "on call" process to the group.</p> <p>H MV explained: at form time, teachers take the register and notify the "on call" team [OCT for these minutes] of any students who were expected to be in class but who aren't there (for both safeguarding and behaviour reasons).</p> <p>OCT try to locate the student. Persistent offenders will usually go to the same place each time eg toilets, woodland, benches.</p> <p>If a student cannot be located, parents are contacted and asked to contact the student to check on their welfare and ask them to go to class.</p> <p>In the case of an incident in class, where a teacher needs to exit a student, the teacher calls the OCT and asks if a member of the team will take the student to the 6th form room, the Hub or another safe space, to reflect.</p> <p>In the case of a serious incident, "priority on call", the OCT will all report to the point of the incident. This could be threats or an unauthorised student entering a classroom etc.</p> <p>A problem can arise if more than one incident happens at the same time but this is unusual. Some students may be waiting to be dealt with for exits.</p> <p>A parent asked if the school is still in the implementation phase of the strategy, particularly not punishing students for misdemeanours immediately. H MV explained that the procedures had been tweaked and will be relaunched imminently. There will be an assembly on Thursday 15.06 to relaunch with students. It was acknowledged that it takes a while before all staff members apply the new rules consistently, particularly with challenging students.</p> <p>The Inclusion resource Centre was launched on Monday giving access for therapeutic support to students with SEMH. Staff are already seeing some benefit, but it is acknowledged that research says it takes 2 years to implement cultural change, so it's early days.</p> <p>Further updates in future PV meetings.</p>		Bolton Impact Trust commissioned to conduct a review of Inclusion strategy 19 Sept 2024.

Toilets	<p>There has been a TikTok campaign to get students to protest that their human rights are being infringed by being prevented from using the toilets at will.</p> <p>Netherthorpe students are encouraged to use toilets in break/lunch time. During lesson time, all but the science corridor toilets are locked. Any student with a medical reason to use the toilet has a pass to let them out of lessons. Other students will ask the teacher for a pass if they need to go. If challenged, they can show the pass, which has the teacher's name on it. Use of each pass is recorded on SIMS so it is evident which students are using the passes at the same time.</p> <p>Some other schools have stricter rules re use of toilets than this.</p> <p>The protest at Netherthorpe had minimal impact and was dispersed easily by teachers and year 11 students.</p> <p>Since restart after COVID, there has been a lot of wilful damage to the toilets. According to the Derbyshire Heads it is happening in every school. Door locks are being knocked off and toilet seats/loo roll holders broken. Students identified by CCTV damaging school property will be invoiced for the repair work.</p> <p>Groups congregate in the toilets. They eat lunch in there and some consider it a safe space, but that can make it an unsafe place for other students. Some use the toilets to vape (picked up on CCTV) or to use mobile phones. School has considered installing vape detectors but they are too expensive and don't give sufficient cover.</p>	SLT to review current toilet policy and implement new system from Sept 2024 to ensure students feel safe accessing the toilet if needed in lesson time.	Toilet access during the school day has been changed to PE rather than Science toilets to allow supervision. All toilets remain open before school, during social times and after school.
Internal truants	<p>HMV explained that this is an increasing problem in schools. Some students choose not to go to lessons, but just wander around the school. When they are picked up by the "on call" team they are taken to a safe space to "reset".</p> <p>If such a student enters another classroom they are suspended. The school then relies on parents to collect them. This may take some time.</p> <p>In the meantime the student has to be managed and the safeguarding of other students is paramount.</p> <p>Netherthorpe is considering becoming part of a "behaviour hub", a DfE initiative which partners schools with other secondary schools, because post COVID, behaviour is a big national problem. Many of the partner schools are in the south, which may cause contextual problems.</p> <p>A parent suggested launching a questionnaire to find out how students are feeling about behaviour. HMV explained that Mrs Kelly is undertaking detailed "lived experience panels". She has spoken to students from all years, y7 to y13, about their lived experience and whether they feel safe.</p>	HMV to report back to the next PV meeting with the outcome of Mrs Kelly's investigations	<p>Lived experiences panel outcomes shared with leaders in the summer to inform curriculum planning and then all staff on 4 Sept and Governing body on 18 Sept 2023.</p> <p>New Quality assurance process in place including Every lesson visits.</p>

	Fire Alarm	<p>Another “good” idea on Tik Tok is that students should set off the fire alarm in school. Fire alarms have been disrupting A Level and GCSE exams; the culprits are identified on CCTV and receive sanctions and which include suspension from school.</p> <p>The fire alarm system allows staff to identify a real fire as opposed to a deliberate false alarm, so students have not had to evacuate every time. The health & safety advisors to school, Judicium, have confirmed that a delay of up to 3 minutes from the first alarm being set off to all alarms being sounded is both legal and, more importantly, because of the systems in school, safe. This means that students will experience significantly less disruption with their school day. Special consideration applications have been sent for all those students who encountered fire alarm incidents during exams.</p> <p>A parent asked about PEEP. A student with additional needs will have a special Personal Evacuation Plan to be used in the case of a real fire alarm. Some students cannot cope with the regular evacuation procedure so they may have to register with a different member of staff and staff are already aware.</p>		Fire alarm protocol reviewed.
Teaching and Learning	Resits	<p>RSW had a question from a parent about resitting after a poorer grade than expected at GCSE. The parent wanted to know whether this is just possible in maths and English or can they resit other subjects.</p> <p>HMV explained that maths and English can be retaken alongside A Levels in the 6th form if a student is disappointed with grades. Other subjects can be retaken as a private candidate but will have to be paid for.</p> <p>HMV urged students who receive disappointing GCSE grades to talk to staff asap and not to panic. Each case is considered individually. Morally, the school will not put students onto a course they are unlikely to pass, they will, however, offer alternative courses. The belief is that each student should be offered a life chance, irrespective of how long it takes to get there. Staff will also be available on both GCSE and A level results’ days, including an independent careers advisor.</p>		
	Teachers strike	<p>HMV explained that there was the possibility of further strikes before the summer. Parents will be informed as soon as possible.</p>		Parents informed of strike action in advance.
Extra Curricular	Family quiz	<p>NCI encouraged anyone who is available to come to the forthcoming family quiz and said how well the family STEM event had gone.</p>		Family engagement activities scheduled every half term this academic year due to success of this pilot.
	Transition	<p>A parent asked whether the holiday transition events would be taking place. HMV confirmed that they will be held as usual. It will be the week of the A level results w/c14/8. Mrs Connolley will send out details this week.</p> <p>HMV informed that Y6 transition days may be disrupted by the teachers’ strike. Further information to follow.</p>		Summer school attended by over 120 new Y7 students. Transition days reduced to 1 day due to strike action.

	PV on tour	NCI told PV about the first PV on tour group session at the Edge Ministry near Morrisons, who were very accommodating. A steady stream of parents attended allowing those staff present to have good quality conversations with attendees, resulting in 2 new PV members attending tonight. A further PV event is being planned for Poolsbrook in September. HMV said the best thing about it was that she met parents who had not been into school before.		PV in the community scheduled each term. LPPA verification September 2023.
	450 year celebration	This celebration, which was postponed from last year, will now take place next year due to the delay in obtaining the necessary licences. RSW is leading on it and will ask PV for help with the arrangements in due course.	RSW to seek support for planning of Community celebration event in July 2024.	
AOB	Fencing	The woodlands area has been a concern given that it is accessible to students. School has planning permission for a fence to be erected, and funding from the Endowment governors so this will be constructed from the MUGA – multi use games area – across the field and will separate out the inclusion unit, meaning there will be no unauthorised access to the woodland area.		Fencing erected in August 2023.
	Farewell	Many regular PV attendees are parents of y13 students so this will be their last meeting. Thank you and a fond farewell to those parents leaving us tonight, particularly to Di Hulbert who has taken the minutes for quite some time.		