

MINUTES OF MEETING

ALLOWAY PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL

28 January 2025

Attendance

Fiona Meney, Lauren Miller, Michelle Gass, Catriona Andrews, Kasia Munro, Janine Leonard, Julie Grant, Claire Campbell

Apologies

Minutes of last meeting dated

Read and approved.

Head Teachers Report

Mrs Meney reported back that the Inspection was a positive experience, she cannot share the feedback until it has been through the quality assurance first so it should be in around 8-10 weeks.

There were 5 Inspectors and one lay member (who spoke to parents, PTA, etc on the Tuesday). The Inspectors were in the school from the Monday pm until the Friday pm and their Inspector popped in on Monday at 12 for a scoping meeting visiting her team. The Inspection is based on how good the school is and looks at 4 indicators to assess and grade us which are Leadership of Change; Learning, Teaching and Assessment; Ensuring Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion; Raising Attainment and achievement.

The grade itself is from 1 – 6, 6 being excellent and 1 being unsatisfactory, the bottom 2 grades mean a revisit would have to take place.

They will make a comment on (but not grade) - Curriculum Pathways and Partnerships.

And also, the welfare of the children. It was very thorough Inspection, they were in and out of the classes, they talked to parents, partners, staff, children and no stone was left unturned. It was also transparent and they asked everyone to complete a questionnaire/survey before Christmas so they had the results to look through before the visit. The data from these surveys will be published (not the comments) and the contents have been discussed with Mrs Meney but not given to her.

The class visits were unannounced and they went in and out of classes. They also tracked individual children to ensure their needs were being met.

In the EYC it was very full on as they had 2 Inspectors in until the Thurs when they fed back and staff were ready. They saw a PEEP group, the forest kindergarten, and looked at quality indicators throughout. The staff were happy with the feedback given; it was an intense week but went well.

The inspectors could see how much the staff care about the kids and they did say the children were fabulous and a credit to all. They ate in the dinner hall and praised the quality of the food.

The school wish list was discussed and the fact that the P7's who helped fundraise the money only have 5 months left at school so Mrs Meney is keen to get things ordered asap. Ideally some iPads and they would also love another metal storage shed for outside to keep some of the new toys in which might be approx. £900. The iPads are £278 each and must be ordered through the school channels, a rechargeable trolley

would be good but may not be needed at the minute as new iPads will use the existing charging box. Each class currently has 1 iPad each. The iPads that the PTA will purchase will be a bank for all children to use. It was decided that the PTA will give Mrs Meney cheque for 15 iPads tomorrow and that the PTA will look at buying the hut/shed and covers for the 15 iPads.

The school are updating some policies including the anti-bullying policy as the government have upgraded their best practice document recently. Mrs Meney reported that Cyber Bullying (out with school) is on the increase especially as kids are getting access to more apps and at a younger age and the repercussions of this and gaming is then brought into school. Mobile phones are not allowed out in school, Mrs Meney advised that she can't stop children bring them to school but that they must not bring them out while at school. Belmont did a consultation previously and there is a box in each room where they surrender their phones on entering the classroom.

Mrs Meney would have consulted with parents via a survey on our Bullying policy and asked some of the questions on the survey to the PTA tonight.

The school twitter account was discussed as it is not well used. Mrs Meney discussed how ethical this was just now and is considering closing this down due to the lack of moderation on Twitter. PTA in agreement.

Also under review is the communications policy, platforms. When asked if APS should lose the expressions app there were only 22 responses but they all voted yes. It is unclear if parent portal will be able to cover everything the expressions app does. Parents are frustrated with the number of apps and wish this to be streamlined.

EYC - Mrs Miller

Julie will look at growing food items for nursery and any grants, donations, etc.

Chair Report

Plans for next few months were discussed, the PTA will consider another book fair and tie it in with parents' night again, Catriona will see what is available online and if there is anything easier. School discos? Easter event, quiz night (Fri night, 6ish), maybe before easter hols? Include Wonka bars? Could try and include the BB's as Fri night is their night in the school hall and we haven't let in? Include raffle. More info to follow.

AOCB

The P7's leavers service is put on by the school and will be on 24/6, the school also will book bowling which is a treat from the school and plans may start next month on this. The PTA will buy ties for the secondary schools and start looking into what they need and numbers soon. There is no yearbook provided by the school, this was organised by parents last year. Parents in the past have organised a piper and after party.

Date & Time of Next Meeting

10/03/25 in school 6.30pm ish