

## **ACADEMY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 10<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2016**

### **Members in attendance**

Janet Baker (JB), Michael Paulin (MP), Angela Kunjiraman (AK) & Adam Redgrove (AR)

### **Others in attendance**

17 parents/carers

### **Agenda items**

**1. Attendance and Star Pupil Reward Schemes** – It was noted by various parents/carers that these schemes do not appear to be happening in a consistent manner. JB advised that Star Pupil postcards are typically not posted until the week after, but asked that parents make the school aware if these are not received. **Attendance reward arrangements were not discussed in detail and therefore it is suggested that parents/carers contact the school direct regarding any concerns.**

**2. Summer Fair/Fund-Raising** – JB/AK advised that approximately £700 was raised from the summer fair. Various items have been suggested for allocation of funding including a table tennis table, stage, climbing bars/wall, musical instruments. An update on this will be provided at the next AC meeting. It was also noted that the intention is to set up a parents fund-raising group prior to the xmas fair.

**3. Drop off/Pick up** – It was noted that some parents/carers had been told not to bring children to school in buggies. JB agreed that the intended message had perhaps been communicated incorrectly in that SPA are keen for pupils to walk/cycle/scoot to school, but that they accept that this is not always practical due to distances covered and the general heavy traffic of the surrounding area. There was an update on the external bike/scooter storage where unfortunately progress is frustratingly slow and this is largely due to approvals needed from Tower Hamlets.

**4. Partnerships** – It was agreed that the potential partnership with UBS should be taken up if possible however it was also agreed that clarity was needed on how this would work. Reading support was suggested as one way UBS staff could assist the school. **JB to liaise with the parent working at UBS.**

**5. Playtime in Mile End park** – JB advised that various items to encourage play are taken to Mile End Park and Shandy Park but acknowledged that these were limited and did not include footballs, primarily due to the logistics of the park arrangements. However JB confirmed that this issue has already been raised by the School Council and it will be addressed. JB agreed that footballs could be used within the ball court of Shandy Park and possibly in Mile End park too. Those attending shared the view that these things are crucial to their children's physical and social development. Queries were raised regarding access to the park and playdeck and JB advised that the current arrangements will be rotated in the next term. Queries were also raised regarding staffing levels during trips to the parks and JB advised that typically there are 5 staff for a group of 50 pupils except for nursery and reception where the ratios are slightly different.

**6. Lunchtimes** – Concerns were raised that children's lunches were being taken away if they were eating too slowly. JB confirmed this was certainly not the case but that in some instances children were moved to other areas to make space for the next sitting. There had been an incident where a pupil had been given a meat dish when their diet was specified as vegetarian and this had been dealt with by JB. Queries were raised regarding pupils eating lunch early or late. JB advised that the earliest sitting is 12.15 and the latest 12.50.

**7. Classroom temperatures** – Concerns were raised regarding the high temperatures in classrooms over the summer. JB acknowledged that there is an issue, particularly with the classrooms on the top floor and therefore air conditioning solutions are being explored.

**8. Sports Facilities** – JB advised that there is no space for squash within the current PE schedule but suggested it could be investigated as an after school club. The tuition and equipment offered by the Lawn Tennis Association was briefly discussed and it was felt this too should be looked into for an after school club. JB noted that she has been looking into the installation of climbing bars within the hall. A (bouldering) climbing wall is not considered to be appropriate for the school.

**9. Toy Library** – This was felt to be a good idea in theory but difficult to put into practice and it was therefore agreed that there is no need to pursue this any further for the time being.

## **10. AOB**

**Christmas Fair** – It was confirmed that Monwara will lead on arrangements for this year's xmas fair.

**Pupil Safety** – Concerns were expressed regarding the flow of pupils and vehicles on Solebay St/Toby Lane at drop-off and pick-up. JB noted that initial discussions with LBTH highways regarding a zebra crossing outside the school had not been favourable, presumably because of the loss of parking revenue. **JB suggested that parents/carers write to LBTH requesting a crossing and/or lollipop person to improve safety for pupils around the school.**

**Piano** – JB confirmed that a piano had been donated to the school but at present there are no staff or volunteers that have come forward that are able to play!

**4R playtime** – JB confirmed that, as a disciplinary measure, some 4 Red pupils were not permitted to join playtime recently. Parents at the meeting felt that this might be appropriate on occasion but given the more limited playtime at the school due to the lack of playspace, this could be considered to be contentious and should only be used as a last resort.

**Park safety** – General safety aspects within the park for drop-off and pick-up were discussed in light of recently reported abduction attempts reported in the media. JB advised that LBTH confirmed to the school that the media reports were inaccurate and therefore a notification to parents was not necessary in this instance. It was agreed that police and community police officers should be more visible more frequently at drop-off and pick-up. **JB and parents to make enquires to make this happen.** A query was also raised regarding checks on the trees within the park given the relatively recent fatality that occurred in the park due to a falling branch. JB advised that the school are in regular contact with LBTH parks regarding maintenance and inspection.