

DUNNINGTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARENT SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PANEL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2014 AT 9.00AM**

**Present:** Mrs C Hancy Mr S Parkinson  
Mrs K Swainston (Y5) Mrs Reid (Y2)  
Mrs L Perry (Y1) Mrs S Crossley (Y4)  
Mrs R Calvert (Rec) Mrs F Swann (Y3)

**In attendance:** Mrs S Brandon

Agenda Item No.		Action By
1.	<p><b><u>Apologies for Absence</u></b> Mrs M Hughes (Y6 representative).</p>	
2.	<p><b><u>Introduction</u></b> Parents were welcomed by SP, who explained that the panel had been established to consult and lobby opinion on a whole range of relevant topics. One past issue considered by the panel had been around toilet provision through the school. CH was pleased to report that work would be taking place during the summer of 2014 to provide a refurbishment of facilities and two additional toilets in KS2, roof repairs would be carried out in 2015 and renewal of pipework the following year.  Parents introduced themselves.</p>	
3.	<p><b><u>Homework</u></b> CH told parents that a new primary curriculum will come into effect from September 2014 and as part of that, the school leadership team wanted to take the opportunity to review the homework policy. CH explained that there were no current government guidelines or expectations and that the policy for homework is the responsibility of the headteacher. However, reference to homework is included in the OFSTED framework for inspection – stating that the school should be setting appropriate homework. CH &amp; SP would therefore like to find out from a parents’ perspective how they feel about what is currently happening. Each parent then reported comments on homework for the year group they were representing as follows:-  Reception - Good, well matched, not too much, interactive. Feeling that deadlines were important. Approximately 1 hour per week in total.  Y1 – Reading book, changed as and when required, doesn’t have to be read on a particular night. Spellings termly. Maths worksheet every 2 to 3 weeks. Feeling is that there is not enough.  Y2 – mixed views had been put to this representative from various parents. Reading books as in Y1. One or two parents had felt that books were not changed as frequently as they might be and not enough guided reading.</p>	

Some parents thought worksheets every two weeks were enough, other felt not enough project sheets. Wanted more project choices.  
Parents wanted more feedback from homework. Sometimes still in bags following week and a perception that it is not being chased up by school if not complete.  
Is homework really necessary at all? Needs to be marked if set.

Y3 - Spelling sporadic and not challenging enough. Big Write enjoyed. Felt homework a bit hit and miss and hard to keep track of. Good for children to have to learn how to plan and organise – preparation for secondary school.

Y4 – Mainly Big Write. Some parents enjoyed, others not as aware. Parents want to see a marked result from homework. Spellings – vocabulary not always understood by all children. Homework for maths/literacy should continue alongside project work.

Y5 – Big Write – not all parents aware of topics. Spellings OK. Alternate maths/literacy and now project work. Some children not able to continue with project work (Victorians) as ‘too far in front’. Dampens child’s enthusiasm when this happens. Child in front – therefore no homework for several weeks when only project work.

Y6 – Y6 rep not present. SP gave a personal opinion, as hadn’t consulted with other parents. Doesn’t like projects (can’t get ahead) – or dressing up days!  
Doesn’t like homework in holidays. Current - very structured, quite challenging, leading to independent working to timescales and deadlines. Spellings – learning to spell words not in common use. Quite complex – relevance?

There was some discussion among all present around the topic of spellings. CH advised that the staff would be looking at spelling in their staff meeting the following day and that communications would be coming home explaining more.

Noted that homework books are in use in Y6 – possibly consider for other KS2 classes? All felt that consistent approach across year groups would be beneficial.

CH asked how parents felt the homework helped in preparing for secondary school. SC had been impressed with home work in Y6 and felt it was good preparation. Project work felt to be useful in developing independent learning skills.

There was further discussion around the use of homework books and follow up.

Questions raised

- Should there be sanctions for homework not done?
- Should there be an opportunity to do homework in school, perhaps lunchtime?

Parents queries the position with the school website. CH explained the change taking place and would be writing to parents in due course. Classes will be able to post homework on their page.

Parents enquired whether homework could be sent by e-mail as well.  
Posted on website, so always available if a child leaves their homework at school.  
Communication from parents encouraged e.g. too challenging, needed a lot of adult help, etc.

CH

	Parents wanted to know what the timescale is. CH advised that policy would be in place to launch in September.	
4.	<p><b><u>Topics for Future Consideration</u></b></p> <p>Holidays – parents would like two week in May. CH explained that this was set by the LA, not the school and that the only flexibility for the school was around the 5 training days.</p> <p>There was some discussion around consequences (fines) for unauthorised absence and also implications of academy status in relation to holidays and absence.</p> <p>Parents queried what had happened regarding the attendance certificate consultation. CH explained what feedback she had received and that she had decided to discontinue these. CH will be writing to parents to explain that an attendance report will be sent to parents termly, with follow up where there are any concerns.</p> <p>Parents indicated they would be interested to look into the behaviour policy. CH explained that there were still some inconsistencies which are being ironed out, particularly around lunchtimes.</p> <p>They also indicated that all parents should be asked if there were issues they would wish to see raised.</p> <p>Parking. CH advised that Y6 were writing letters, as part of their literacy, to various authorities, many of which were around issues on the roads. In response, the LA is sending someone to look at the feasibility of a crossing patrol outside the school. The new LA CCTV van has also been patrolling and penalty notices have been issued.</p>	CH
5.	<p><b><u>Date of next meeting</u></b></p> <p>To be decided.</p>	