



**RATTON SCHOOL
PARENTAL FORUM MEETING MINUTES**

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| Date: | 7 th February 2023 |
| Time: | 5.30pm |
| Place: | Room 122 |

Feedback on behaviour and rewards

- General discussion on rewards system.
- Forum agreed there were many positives around it, but it needed to be shared more regularly with parents and carers.

Feedback on homework and revision

- Discussion around effectiveness of systems and rationale of Ratton approach and policy based on recall of knowledge.
- Group appreciated the rationale and felt overall that the approach was effective.
- However, there were concerns that the nature of short homeworks based on recall did not allow for extension and longer project type work that some students enjoy, particularly in years 7,8 and 9 –
Action: GPE to take this back to Mr Kearsley who oversees homework
- Edulink identified by Forum as effective.
- GPE also shared that homework assignments now appear on Teams Calendars – new development - so parents/students could see when homework had been set or was due in.

Secondhand uniform

- On the topic of uniform, but not secondhand, parents and carers present agreed that the click and collect facility from Sussex Uniforms has been welcomed and made it far easier to obtain uniform.
- Natasha Atkinson highlighted the Ratton Facebook second hand uniform group and shared details.
- GPE stated that it would be good to work with the group and promote through social media here at school.
Action: GPE to liaise with relevant colleagues
- GPE stated that uniform is subsidised for students who are in receipt of Pupil Premium funding and that if any families faced hardship we would provide uniform on a case-by-case based on need.
- GPE shared that the plan was to actively collect secondhand uniform from Year 11 students at the end of their time at Ratton – discussion around how the best way to collect from other groups at the end of the academic year would be took place.
Action: GPE to take this back to relevant staff to plan

Anti-Bullying policy and approach to bullying and peer conflict

- Forum agreed to make this agenda focus for next meeting



**RATTON SCHOOL
PARENTAL FORUM MEETING MINUTES**

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Date: | 28 th March 2023 |
| Time: | 5.30pm |
| Place: | Room 122 |

One agenda item – Anti-Bullying Policy and Child on Child Abuse

Discussion and explanation of our anti-bullying policy with opportunity for parents/carers to ask questions and discuss. Mr. Brown, as Designated Safeguarding Lead, explained the rationale behind the policy, the definition of bullying and how the policy linked to the behaviour policy.

Questions from forum:

Q. How easy or difficult is it for students to report bullying?

Mr. Brown explained that there were many ways to do this. Firstly, via the website on the safeguarding page [Safeguarding | Ratton School](#) there is a button to report sexual harassment and bullying. This has been shared in the last term with students in assemblies. Secondly, all Year Team offices have a small postbox outside where students can post concerns, which are checked regularly. However, both Mr. Brown and Mr. Peevers agreed that students were more likely to report any instances of bullying to a trusted adult – Tutor, Year Leader or Teaching Assistant, for instance, and this is how the majority of reports are made. This is positive in the sense that students feel that they can approach staff to discuss and resolve issues.

Q. How do the students know about this?

Mr. Brown has delivered assemblies on these methods of reporting bullying or online abuse to all year groups over the last term. Input in tutoring programme and Ethics lessons.

Q. Do you know the percentages of students and parents who feel that school is a safe place?

Yes, we regularly use student voice, and do parental surveys. We also have external scrutiny – governors, local authority safeguarding reviews and Ofsted for example - who focus primarily on what the students are telling them about how safe they feel.

There was also a discussion around the nature of 'zero tolerance' and what is meant by that – it was agreed that this meant that any incidents of racist or homophobic language for example, would be challenged. It was agreed that every situation is different and that would mean that sanctions may be different, but Mr. Brown explained that we also take an educative approach. For example, in response to a comment from the forum, it was explained that all discriminatory language is logged on to the school system and reported each month in a safeguarding report that is given by Mr. Brown to Mr. Peevers. This is also reported to governors and trustees. Additional to appropriate sanctions, each student is picked up for a conversation about the remarks by a senior teacher. The forum also raised issues around the influence and ideas of Andrew Tate on social media and there was discussion around effective ways to approach this from a parental and school perspective, and in terms of building resilience for young people, particularly around the use of social media.

Mr. Brown explained that equalities issues were covered in the Ethics curriculum, and in tutor time and assemblies. Forum closed with parents and carers' comments on the anti-bullying policy, stating that it seemed good enough and straightforward to understand.