

Document:	Parent and Community Advisory Forum
Location:	The Oval
Time:	Friday 14 th October 9.15am
Clerk:	Mollie Sheldon

Comments:
 As part of our school improvement strategy, the concept of parent and community voice is important for the Trust in terms of living its values and helping children to be as successful as possible. The Trust also sees parent and community voice as critically important to the golden thread of governance.

This is predicated on the belief that when trustees, leaders and parents come together to share strategic direction and oversight:

- schools will be more successful
- teachers will be more effective and professionally fulfilled
- pupils will learn and achieve more
- parents will feel more confidence in their school and more involved in their child's education
- the local community will respect the school as an important contributor to the neighbourhood
- trustees are able to know their schools better

The terms of reference for the Parent and Community Forum can be found here: [04-Terms-of-Reference.pdf \(drbignitemat.org\)](#)

The Trust is built on a strong foundation of shared visions and values, which can be found here:

- Our Vision: [Our Vision - drb Ignite Multi Academy Trust \(drbignitemat.org\)](#)
- Our Values: [Our Values - drb Ignite Multi Academy Trust \(drbignitemat.org\)](#)

Item	Topic	Action
1	Apologies and Welcomes	
	<i>In attendance</i> Dawn Williams (Headteacher) Manju Chadda (Deputy Headteacher) Parents (6) DW outlined the purpose of the PCAFs and the terms of reference DW laid out the structure of the Trust DW explained the Trust visions and values	
2	Cost of Living Crisis	
	Food Bank/Food Clubs DW mentioned that The Oval have previously sent out communication regarding food clubs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents confirmed they had seen these messages DW explained the difference between Food Banks and Food Clubs as parents were unsure	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents asked if anyone could access food clubs? DW confirmed that they can. <p>DW asked parents if this is something The Oval families need?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents agree that this is something that needs to be communicated DW explained that The Oval would struggle for space if they were to facilitate this internally and would need to clarify with the Trust to establish how this would run 	
	<p><u>Support with uniform</u></p> <p>DW asked how parents are finding the uniform framework?</p> <p>Parents started a discussion around black/grey trousers and skirts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DW stressed that it was more important that children were in school, uniform should not be a barrier to attendance <p>DW raised the possibility of a uniform swap shop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DW encouraged parents to bring old uniform/school accessories into school Parents agreed this was a good idea 	
	<p><u>Household budget support</u></p> <p>DW asked parents if they thought others would approach school to ask for such help.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents agreed that money is a sensitive topic and parents probably will not approach school about this 	
	<p><u>Questionnaire to parents</u></p> <p>Parents agree that a questionnaire should be sent to parents</p> <p>One parent commented on the importance of supporting parents who are not able to fill out the questionnaire, as to not discount their opinion. It was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There should be short, multiple-choice questions/answers Minimal 'comments' boxes Electronic/online, so the page can be translated 	
	<p><u>Any other comments or feedback?</u></p> <p>One parent asked about holiday clubs for parents who may struggle for childcare over the break.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One parent expressed there is little point in them working, as they would have to spend their wages on childcare 'Bring it on Brum' was mentioned, the Trust to look into this <p>One parent suggested it will be important to help working families, as they do not have access to free school meals and other forms of support</p>	
3	<p><u>Rights Respecting</u></p> <p>DW explained that The Oval is a Gold Standard in RRSA and feels it is important that parents understand what this means</p> <p>KM shared why they have completed the award and what/who is involved in the process</p>	

	<p>KM explained how parents are involved and requested their feedback</p> <p>One parent raised issues with the school site regarding disabled accessibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DW stated that unfortunately, some areas of the school cannot be adapted or changed <p>Parents and KM agreed how understanding and accepting pupils at The Oval are and put much of this down to their Rights Respecting journey</p> <p>KM and parents agree that this is more than just a bronze/silver/gold award; it provides pupils with essential skills and knowledge that they can carry throughout their lives</p> <p>DW asked how school can better communicate this journey with parents; is there any way school can further involve parents?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers could use Class Dojo to share which article children are looking at each week Parents were keen to be involved in this, so they can discuss it with their children at home 	
4	Communication	
	<p>DW shared that parents often bring up issues around communication, so asked parents to share what they feel is working well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents stated they liked Class Dojo, but requested teachers share what pupils are doing in school/photographs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DW stated that we must be aware of GDPR when doing things like this DW agreed that school will start sending more things through Dojo <p>One parent noted that it is possible to link personal calendars and school calendars; IT to look into the feasibility of this</p> <p>DW asked for parents' feedback on workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was unanimous agreement that the workshops are important, as they help parents to know how they can support their children at home DW requested parents to share ideas of what they would like to see with the school <p>DW encouraged parents to speak to their friends and get their feedback on communication</p> <p>DW explained they are trying to reduce the amount of text messages sent, and asked parents if they are registered on the Parent App</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some parents expressed that they were not aware of the app One parent noted how you only have a set amount of time to register, and if you missed this window, you need a new code One parent commented that if you do not use the app for a while, it asks you to re-register- why is this? DW agreed to send out communication again to encourage more parents to sign up 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents expressed that they understood the need to reduce the use of text message One parent stated that you can easily miss emails as they are not grouped together as text messages are <p>DW asked attendees to encourage their friends to sign up for the app</p>	
5	Evening School	
	<p>DW asked for thoughts on returning to the evening as school had noted that although it was good to have children with parents, the uptake was good at the start and end of day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One parent asked how they can be inclusive of working parents? DW stated that teachers can offer telephone calls, rather than face-to-face meetings <p>Parents are eager to see their child's classroom and see what they are learning in school and seeing examples of their work. DW confirmed that books would be available</p>	