



Woodbridge Road Academy Council

Wednesday 26th February 2025 10.30 - 11.30

Attendees: NS, BD, GK

Apologies: GJ, SM, MS

1. Parent / carer survey feedback

The level of response to the parent/carer survey has been high (71%), with responses being overwhelmingly positive. The themes that scored the lowest (although still relatively high) were:

- I do not receive enough information from the school about my child's social life
- Homework

Regarding information it is difficult to think what else the school can do, beyond contacting parents immediately when problems arise, which they are already doing. It may be good to remind parents of the office phone number and email address at each Newsletter, while reassuring them their concerns will always be addressed.

The subject of homework is even more difficult to tackle as comments, independently of the year group, covered the full spectrum with some parents/carers feeling that not enough homework was set to others feeling that there should be much more homework. A homework survey was sent out in the February newsletter for parents/carers to provide further viewpoints about homework, to date there have been no responses.

2. Homework including reading

The council's position on homework remains one of total flexibility – taking into account different pupils' experiences of homework. NS explained that the school praises pupils for completing homework (behaviour points) and does not sanction for missed homework. BD and GK were in agreement with this approach.

Online homework was discussed, there was support for mainly using online platforms with paper based options available on a case by case basis.

In terms of encouraging reading, the school is now dedicating a 30 min period each day to this (with the exception of Y11, which uses that time to catch up on Science). Pupils are split in reading age groups rather than year groups which is working well. Additionally, pupils are encouraged to use the school library and trips have been organised to both the Ipswich library and the free bookshop in Ipswich.

A reward system is being implemented by the school to encourage both homework and reading.

3. Pupil council

The pupil council meets for 30 min every other week. There is a pupil representing each class, some classes have fixed representatives, others alternate.

Pupil council continues to be a fascinating experience, as pupils understand they have a real input and put a lot of reflection into it. Subjects discussed have ranged from behaviour points and how to “measure” good or bad behaviour, to sustainability, forest school and even how to name the classes. Pupil council is clearly helping with developing a sense of belonging in the school.

Pupil councils are a feature in all the schools in the academy, with the senior leadership making the point of attending to some of them.