



To: Parents/Carers, Key staff at Parkwood Academy
From: Sharon Court Project Worker, Autism in Schools.
Date: 09.03.23
Title: Feedback from Parent Meeting.

Date of Meeting

09.03.23

Number of attendees

3 parents

SC from SPCF

Meeting was on-line due to snow (cancelled meeting in school)

Discussion Points

Meeting was different to what was planned. The snow fell and was not stopping so SC made decision to cancel the meeting and sent contacts info of an on-line meeting.

3 parents joined the meeting.

Intro

General chat about the snow and school. How changes impact on our CYP (child, young person).

This led to the changes and disruption with Teachers Strikes (2 days planned in a row next week).

Feedback from last meeting

SC fed back some info from LO following the last meeting. SC and LO had talked about positives and what can be improved with the Parent Groups. One parent said it was good to touch base once a month, that COVID had stopped a lot of f2f interaction.

One parent said the new folders referred to at the last meeting had not been given out to students. One parent said they did have the new additions to the folder. One parent said the idea of the whiteboard to take notes was not practical as the marker pens wiped off once in the school bag.

Teachers Strike

Parents said they were not yet aware which students would be at home or in school next week.

One parent had concerns because their CYP had 2 days of mock exams during that week.

Parents said work is supposed to be set on MS Teams but it is often not there. This has led to arguments at home along the lines of "have you got work to do?" "Yeah but there's nothing there" "I'm sure there will be, let me have a look.." and then there's arguments.

Parents said they don't have the knowledge using some software e.g. Teams and aren't confident navigating around the systems.

Parents concerned that over 2 days what do they do if no work appears?

One parent suggested work set that is on paper.

Parents said there seems to be an issue editing work on Teams which their CYP find frustrating.

Parent's Evening

One parent attend parents evening recently. They reported the info on the sheet posted to them was out of date which had been disappointing. Another parent said the info for their CYP had been current info. Wondered if there had been some missed when updating reports?

Parent said they'd appreciate an explanation to what the late minutes refers to. Example given by a parent of 76mins late but only had 2 late marks. Parents wondered if intervention time had been included in the late minutes?

Attendance

Parents discussed good attendance. Parents talked about how hard this is for SEND students to achieve with medical appointments and comorbidities. One parent said because their CYP was not likely to achieve 100% this made the parent feel bad. All parents recognise good attendance is desired but said it was not always attainable for SEND students. One parent said their CYP had 2 years of 100% attendance with no recognition. SC said she'd seen something on FB about attendance and students receiving rewards of Amazon vouchers. Parents said that names were put into a hat and it was raffle, so not everyone with 100% received a reward. Parents felt this was unfair.

Mock Exams

Parent concerned their CYP has to do several exams over a few days. Parent is making plans how to help their CYP manage the pressure of this.

ADHD and Stimming

One parent said their young person is stimming. It has been suggested to them (kindly) by a staff member who is working with the CYP that they may have ADHD. Parents talked about ADHD, types of behaviour.

Parents talked about stimming and how it can be seen as a negative but unless is harming the individual or other people it can help regulation, release of energy etc. and that stimming is a need. SC to send a parent some info about ADHD and stimming.

Parents and SC agreed to talk about the topic of stimming for part of the meeting at the next SEND parent group. Parents felt there is a stigma and this may help parents.

Lunch break

Parents agreed that 30mins is not long enough. One parent said their CYP struggled with the noise of the lunch hall and had taken to eating their lunch in the toilets as there was no quiet space to eat. One parent said their CYP didn't eat lunch.

Curriculum/Education

Parents talked about the number of lessons in a day and felt it was a high number resulting in a lot of information for CYP's to process. Discussion on how education should be about building on capabilities, strengths and confidence.

Parent said that because their CYP was considered to be academic they were doing 9 GCSE's. Parent felt was too much and causing unnecessary pressure with their processing skills/abilities being different.

Work Experience

Parent raised concerns about the upcoming work experience. They have not found an external company to take on their CYP for the work experience, but they'd been given short notice to find a suitable place. They've asked if they can do their work experience in the school environment as this would help the CYP cope emotionally and mentally, but not heard from school.

A lot of sharing experiences and concerns. Parents were really supportive to each other. A productive hour on a very snowy day.

Areas Identified for Development/Training

Themes

- Teachers Strike
- School work set to do at home
- Late minutes
- Attendance
- Mock Exams
- ADHD
- Stimming
- Lunch Break
- Curriculum and Education
- Work Experience

Impact

- Parents shared info about ADHD and stimming. This was useful in hearing different ways it manifest.
- Plans for what would be of interest to parents at next meeting.
- Great support, really working as a team together.
- Some questions/issues raised for the school to look at.

Actions

SC to send parent info on ADHD and stimming
SC to type up meeting notes and send to LO
LO to provide feedback
Next meeting to spend some time discussing stimming

To be completed by
whom

Date to be completed