

ALFORD ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

Alford Academy
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Notes from Short Meeting Parental Engagement Strategy 27th August 2018

- Present:** Colin Turnbull, Liz Strachan, David Wyllie, Richard Stroud, Penny Fuller, Sheena Lawson, Rhona Stuart, Jane Veitch, Fay MacKay
- In Attendance:** Moira Milne
- Apologies:** Sandy Innes and Charlotte Milburn

The following is a summary of the discussions that took place regarding ideas to encourage and further develop parental engagement.

1. Home Learning

The focus of supporting parents to support learning at home was discussed. A suggestion to help parents understand the information in tracking letters/reports, is to hold an “open house” drop-in session a couple of days after the reports are issued. Senior School Staff and some parents could be on hand to help with advice on conversations with their child and accessing help, for example internet, library, lunchtime extra tuition etc.

ACTION: Parents to be identified and work with school staff to organise an “open house” drop-in session after progress reports are issued for parents to get help understanding the report and be given advice about how they can help their child at home.

2. Communication – building relationships

Methods of communication from school and from Parent Council – via school email/text, blog, FB, noticeboard, were discussed along with strengths and possible improvements. Mixed views were shared with regards current communications with parents. Moira reported that Alford Academy is currently reviewing internal and external communications, however at present communication is mainly through the pupil’s Guidance Teacher.

Engaging with other community groups was suggested as a method to communicate and build relationships. It was suggested that a Parent Council subgroup could be formed, to liaise with groups, for example, the ‘Spikin Autism’ group and include the Principal Teacher of ASL (Additional Support for Learning)/DHT (Pupil Support). This group would report back to the Parent Council. Colin stressed that the subgroup should have

clear guidelines. Moira advised that this was not a forum for individual parents to raise individual concerns, any concerns should be shared with the school directly so that they can be resolved.

ACTION: Guidelines will be developed for a subgroup of the Parent Council to liaise with community groups, for example “Spikin Autism”

3. Intervention focus – drugs/mental health

A cluster information evening for drugs and alcohol awareness was suggested- in a similar format to the internet safety information day held last year. A date will be set at the next meeting.

ACTION: Set a date for a drugs and alcohol awareness information day and evening for pupils and parents

4. Upskilling parents

The timing and focus of workshops to help parents help their children with their learning, were discussed. There was general consensus that there may be more uptake if the sessions were held when the parents were at the campus anyway, for example after school activities, parents’ evenings.

ACTION: A pilot drop in workshop session will be planned after parents have been surveyed for the best time to hold one

5. Volunteering

David Wyllie and Sarah Macgregor are working with the school to establish a group of volunteer parents who will have had the necessary checks to be able to help with a variety of school events and admin tasks.

Close 9.15pm

