



## Minutes

Meeting \_ 13 March 2025 \_ St Joan of Arc staff room

### **Present:**

Liam McCormick, Acting Asst Headteacher  
Vanessa Pazos, Board of Governors  
Pippa Greenbank, Year 6 rep  
Maria Smith, Nursery rep  
Natasha Davey, Year 2 rep  
Sophie Whitehouse, Year 3 rep  
Fiona Shaw, Year 1 Rep  
Fiona Toomey, R, Yr 3 and Yr 4 rep  
Baly Watson  
Leslie Muetzelfeldt  
Octavia  
Shannon  
Lucy  
Gill Auld

### **Apologies from:**

Chris Sudall, Year 5 rep  
Delphine Marsan, Reception rep

LMcC welcomed everyone to meeting.

### **Item 1: Update on actions arising from minutes of last meeting**

- LMcC confirmed that Mr Shreeves is now co-ordinating the Wellbeing Ambassadors, and they have in place activities at lunchtime and playtime for any children who may need a quiet space. The Ambassadors also lead on games, co-ordinate mindfulness colouring and provide books for children to read. PG asked if school could ensure that all children know who the year Ambassador is in each year group.

- Camping trip information is now on google classroom.
- A staff member now remains in church foyer while children are at Mass or rehearsing.
- LMCC confirmed that SLT had met re ASC booking and are considering a new system for September. Other issues relating to ASC are noted later in meeting.
- FS confirmed that the PA are happy to provide extra fruit as discussed in last meeting. LMCC will confirm numbers and include an ongoing reminder about fruit in the newsletter.
- LMCC explained that as Nursery children attend on different days, there is no good day to ensure all are there for photographs.

**Action:**

LMCC will ask RS to let all children know who Wellbeing Ambassadors are.  
LMCC will send info on extra fruit to FA for PA to arrange.

As there were no further issues arising from minutes of last meeting, these were accepted.

**Item 2 - Year 5 parent:**

Why do SJA only offer swimming to children in year 5. I know other schools in Islington start swimming from year 3 onwards.

LMCC explained that the school has found, with experience, that intensive swimming over a short period of time with Yrs 5 as we do now, has greater impact and better results than if the lessons are spread over years or with Yrs 3 and 4. SW added that from feedback she has received, it is working well.


**Reception parent, Year 4 and Year 1 parent:**

On-going issue of Afterschool Childcare and lack of availability has been raised by Reception parents again. People are still having issues.

It would be good if they could reduce or eliminate the number of "only the first parent listed gets the notification" instances. Especially when there is a timing element to it.

LMCC noted that the number of spaces available is in line with the number of spaces requested from the survey which was sent out to families. It may be that it is an overload issue at 8pm when the system opens or due to user error – and these issues should be addressed by the new booking system being looked at for September. LM suggested sending out the survey again and this time making sure parents know that it is important to complete it if they expect to be able to use ASC and childcare.

SW asked if outdoor space could be used to increase capacity. This has been considered previously; however, it is too weather dependant and would not work



on bad days. FS suggested perhaps school should not promote the availability of after school places on new parent tours as this can be misleading.

LMcC has looked at the number of ASC places other local schools provide, and it is often fewer than SJOA. FS suggested highlighting to parents what other schools do. SW asked if it would be possible to use classrooms for extra spaces. This has also been considered previously but staff need to use classrooms to set up for next day.

LM asked if parents could pay in instalments- LMcC confirmed they can, and that this information is on the guidance sheet.

**Action:**

SLT working on new booking system.

LMcC will look at sending out ASC survey again to clarify numbers who need spaces.

**Year 6 parent:**

A couple parents have noticed boy's behaviour in relation to puberty is of concern. What would be the best approach to discuss this with the school/teachers and support parents and children?

LMcC confirmed this issue is covered in RHE lessons and this behaviour has not been brought to anyone's attention. However, the normal recourse is for any parents with a concern to contact the class teacher in first instance. Then speak to a Phase Leader if needed and then, if necessary, it can be escalated to SLT.

**Year 6 parent:**

Is there anyway the Activities week trip could be further supported financially by PA funds? £100 per child can be a lot - especially for those who have twins.

LMcC explained the cost of activities week is already subsidised by the PA and covers 5 x days of activities including coaches to get children across London for water sports. VP suggested that a focussed fundraiser could be held for this – FS agreed this is a good idea if Year 6 parents will help to organise and run. VP agreed to help as she will be Yr 6 parent next year.

LMcC agreed that the costs and subsidy could be shared with parents so they can see how much the PA contributes – as well as funding leavers hoodies and the Yr 6 disco which are free to children.

**Action:**

VP/FS will organise Year 6 fundraiser for activities week.

LMcC will share costs and subsidy info with parents on future communications.



**Year 6 parent:**

Feel School had underutilized its location in central London over last 7 years. With many opportunities for amazing and educational school day trips.

LMcC acknowledged that trips were difficult during pandemic but since then they have increased across the school. Although some trips are free – they have to have a meaningful link to current curriculum focuses and be proven to have a positive impact on outcomes. It is often necessary to pay for travel and this, along with scheduling around the curriculum limits the number of trips classes attend.

**Year 6 parent:**

'As an environmental scientist, I feel curriculum and additional activities have very little emphasis on climate change. There are many great resources for schools and kids on this topic. Raising awareness without causing climate anxiety'

LMcC noted that school had participated in a Garden Classroom project via our local network and that all children had the opportunity to have assemblies, and visit an environmental centre once a term. School also has an Eco Team who led on the initiative on World Book Day to reward the best 'eco' costume.

**Year 6 parent:**

Would like more focus on work and careers – a parent tried to organize talks from among professionals/ parents to talk to the kids about work and careers based on other schools doing similar. Is this something that can still be explored?

LMcC has never been approached for this – but recently we did have mums in Yrs 4, 5 and 6 come in for International Women's Day. LMcC will be happy to speak to this parent to arrange if they'd like to contact school.

**AOB**

Could school offer subsidised individual music lessons during the school day?

LMcC noted that each child has a music lesson once a week from our own music teachers – and often perform at assemblies, summer fete and Christmas fair to show what they have been working on. There is no other available space for individual lessons as the music room is already used.

LMcC and VP noted the positive feedback from Year 6 parents – and thanked reps for passing this on.

**Dates of next meeting:**

**Thursday, 3 July 8.40am**