



Notes from Positive Parents at Heaton St Barnabas

Wednesday 9th April 2014 9am Meeting

JS = Julie Smith Parent Engagement Worker,
NH = Nancy Hutchinson Pastoral Care,
BC= Barbara Cormican Deputy Headteacher
GE= Gill Evans Headteacher

Welcome (Julie Smith)

JS talked through the agenda and introduced BC and the Learning Champions (LCs).

BC and LCs explained what Building Learning Power is, what the different powers are, how the LC's became LCs and what parents can do at home to encourage learning. (Powerpoint available on school website).

Parent Question: Are children being brought out of classes to teach this?

GE: They are, but the work they are doing enhances their learning rather than hinders it. They are not being taught it as a separate lesson, it is being embedded to broaden their learning.

Parent Question: Why are there 30 LC's? Is this a specific number? What happens when the Year 6's leave, will more be chosen to make up the 30?

BC: This isn't a specific number chosen because there has to be 30. There are 30 because these children were already displaying the characteristics needed to be Learning Champions.

GE explained this had been brought to ensure children were learning and understanding what they were being taught rather than teachers standing up teaching and children just sitting expecting to learn with no effort on their part, which is what was happening.

Parent Question: Why are the children being blamed for not learning and not the teachers?

GE explained she was not blaming children or teachers, but that it is no longer the norm to leave school and go into a job that remains your job throughout your working career. Jobs are not as stable as they used to be and therefore children need to learn to become lifelong learners.

JS talked through the figures from the Restorative Practice questionnaire that was filled in on parents evening. NH talked through the responses 6S had given when asked what they thought about restorative practice, circle times and how it helped. A couple of parents were shocked at the low numbers of parents who had read the behaviour policy.

GE agreed and said this proved that as a school we had a lot of work to do to get the message across to the wider range of parents. A suggestion was made for the Peer Mediators to come out on an afternoon at the end of the day and be available for parents to talk to about their role.

JS talked through the upcoming events in school and the parents' classes taking place.

Raffle was won by Mrs Zakera Ansari.

Next meeting: Tuesday 20th May 2014 at 9am.