

School Council Meeting
02.12.05

Bob opened the meeting by establishing some rules to make communication easier. He explain how it would mean that everyone would get their say, and everyone would listen to everyone else. He asked that the school council members raise their hand to take turns and respect what other people are saying. The comments of the School Council are recorded in basic topic areas.

General

It was reported that the Sensory Garden frequently has too many people in it 'messaging around'. It is meant to be quiet. They would like it either to be more supervised or people who aren't going to enjoy the quiet to go onto the playground and let it be a calm space.

The School Council noted that the cutlery had been noticeably cleaner - they sent their thanks to the Kitchen.

It was suggested, that as a result of Anti-bullying week that maybe there could be an anti-bullying counsellor, or someone specific that people can speak to about bullying concerns.

It was asked if pupils could bring their bottles of water into lunch. At the moment pupils are prevented from doing so as there is water on the tables and it is seen as unnecessary.

The School Council was still keen on there being some sort of tuck shop, healthy food options with fruit and juice. They understood the issues about money, and wondered if some sort of token system could be used whereby there was no actual money changing hands. The suggestion was that certain things are allocated a token value and they pay the money to the Office and a record of what they have paid is logged and either tokens are kept, or there is a tally that is knocked down as they buy things. They realised it might be complicated but maybe it would be a good topic for mini-enterprise.

Action – Bob to take suggestions to SMT for discussion re Sensory Garden, Tuck shop, bottled water and anti-bullying counsellor.

Curriculum

It was requested that the software 2 simple2animate be installed on other computers as students have enjoyed using it .

There was a discussion about how lessons could be made more fun and engaging. Use of 'rock' music in music lessons was suggested.

More trips and experiential learning was requested. Jack said that a lot of the pupils in the ASD area learn mainly through visual learning, so anything that gave them more opportunities to do this would be good.

Jack suggested that the Sensory room is made more available. Perhaps it could be used in breaktimes, or potentially as rewards or experiences for everyone in the school. Some of the other areas of the school expressed an interest in using the facility if it was free. It was even commented that it might be a good way of getting some pupils to calm down.

The School Council are still keen on Extra Curricular clubs. One member reported that there were some people who were keen to have things like a Gardening Club and maybe they could help enhance the Sensory Garden as part of what they do. A lot of pupils have been helping at Midsomer Norton with their environmental garden and they might be interested as well.

Action. Vicky to ask Terry if this is possible to Have 2Simple2Animate on more computers.

Action:- Bob to raise other suggestions to SMT about curriculum and Sensory Room

Premises.

It was reported that there is an area behind Tracey Snell's classroom that is out of sight to the playground supervisors. This is a 'hotspot' for bullying, and antisocial behaviour. Everyone agreed that this was the case. It was suggested that either it is monitored or blocked off.

The School Council thought that areas of the school could do with renovation. The play ground for the younger year groups was highlighted as something that needed new equipment.

Toilets between Carol and Emily's room are reported as damp and unpleasant.

A request was made for a new heater in the Music room

Dan reported on behalf of his tutor group in the music room that they were annoyed that people are not putting back tables, chairs and the piano after they use their tutor room. He asked if it were possible that they start doing this as it takes up most of their tutor time putting them back.

Rubbish bins were asked for around the 5-aside pitch as there are a lot of people using it in the moment and there is nowhere to put rubbish.

The bench under the tree is broken – Andy needs to be informed. Benches and chairs in the shade are seen as very desirable and moving existing equipment there might cut down on cost.

In relation to the area behind 3 Green, because of the problems there, no one uses the equipment. It was suggested that maybe the playground equipment should be moved to over by the trees where people might use it.

Vicky reported to the Council that the water coolers had been ordered and should be installed shortly. They were pleased to hear this and thought it would be good for the summer.

Action – Vicky to tell Andy about heater, toilets, bench and the possibility of moving equipment. Also about rubbish bins.

Action:- Bob to report to David/Staff meeting about putting the chairs and tables back in Music Room

Action:- Bob to speak to SMT about the playground for Mairi's and Jenny's class and 'hot spot'

Website.

Vicky and Bob told the School Council about the School Website and that there was an area on there specifically for pupils, for work, for achievement and for news. It could also contain anything else that the pupils really wanted up there.

The School Council brainstormed things that might be suitable for it. An online newspaper/magazine with topics or articles that might be interesting to the pupils was suggested. Recommendations, interviews with teachers were all suggested and everyone seemed enthusiastic about what could be done. Bob asked if the School Council Representatives could ask their groups what they thought about the Website and what they would like to see on it and how material could be contributed.

It was suggested that as a start that maybe some pupils could make some posters to advertise the website to pupils in the school. They could be put up in the ICT Suite or near computers so pupils would know where to look.

Action – Council Reps to ask groups about website and report back ideas to next meeting.

Action – Ask pupils to make poster for website to be put up around the school.

Meeting Ended 1.55pm