

SCHOOL COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting 7.10.05

New Representatives

Bob welcomed the new representatives and advocates and explained that the School Council was a way for the students to raise issues that would then be taken to the Senior Management Team. He explained they had Link books for their tutor groups to write down ideas and then they could bring it to the meeting and discuss them.

He then invited the new representatives to raise the issues that had been put in their books. As it was a new term there were not as many issues raised as normal.

Tuck shop

It was asked if there could be a healthy tuck shop, that sold maybe fruit, healthy snack bars or drinks like juice or milk. It was explained that that we had looked into healthy vending machines for them but that this was impossible due to problems of staffing responsibility for them.

Premises

Various members of the council reported there were some chairs that were broken in the hall and in the science room. Bob said he would report this to Andy to check, but in future they can let any teacher know if they have a broken chair and it will be removed immediately.

It was asked if there could be a proper path to the 5-aside pitch. Other council members informed the group that this is being taken care of as a Design Technology project.

A suggestion was made that we should think about increasing shady area's for pupils, perhaps with benches in them for the next summer. A summer shelter of some description, or a canopy as not all pupils want to run around and in some of the quieter places there is no shade. Various members had seen different designs and thought that this might be a good idea.

Benches were also suggest for outside the 5-aside pitch as some people liked to watch but at the moment had to come inside.

It was suggested that it might be useful to have a specific wheelchair area for some of the students. Apparently several members of the Council had seen and been impressed by the roundabout designed for wheelchairs at the new park in Radstock. It was pointed out that one of the wheelchair swings was hardly ever used at breaktimes. It might be a case that time needs to be put to one side for the wheelchair users to actually use it – potentially at other times if there is not enough at breaktime. The council asked that this be looked into and discussed.

More things for the sensory garden were requested – things to play with and more plants. They feel it could be developed even more than it is now, though it was admitted with the group looking after it from Fosse Way house there were less weed.

Sport and P.E

There was a request for new breaktime footballs as the current one's have 'seen better days' and tend to go flat a lot.

The topic of free weights came up again and gym equipment. The council discussed and realized the problem of expensive machines, having people trained and manned but free weights might be a possibility. It was also mentioned that Writhlington are intending to open out their new facilities including a gym to primary schools. This is due to be discussed at the next Network Heads meeting

in November and Vicky will report back. In general gym equipment was seen as something that needed replacing.

There was a request for KS3 bowling trips

Nathaniel on behalf of Mairi's class sent their thanks to people who had done the sandpit. Mairi's group would also like new bike's if possible – their old ones are falling apart.

It was asked if we could get someone in to do some trampolining here as some students who have been out and experienced it really enjoyed it. They weren't sure if it were possible for insurance reasons.

They would also like basketball courts marked out on the playgrounds, and possibly higher posts.

One of the Council members asked if it were possible to get different tires for the wheelchairs when they are going on grass, or a wheelchair for that purpose as the current wheelchairs get bogged down in it, and can't move. At one of the residential visits there had been wheelchairs that could move well over sand and grass.

General

Cutlery was reported as still seeming dirty. It was explained that a lot of that is scale rather than debris, though it was suggested that perhaps the kitchen could do with having a new dishwasher.

The issue was raised of the Council wanting there to be a consistency of approach to various issues like telling people off for uniform problems. It was felt that sometimes certain individuals were picked up on it more often than others, even though they had the same problem as others.

More requests for a point to be made about people not interfering with wheelchairs.

There was an idea that there could be a Fosse Way School Newspaper. It was suggested that this could be put on the website and could be something small weekly. Vicky said this would not be a problem if the information were given to her. This is something that needs further discussion.

There was a request that we keep maintaining the level of awareness with regard to anti-bullying.

There was also a request for a ruling from the Senior Management team on the matter of piercings and what was acceptable and what wasn't.

Bob thanked the members for attending, reminded them all of how the meetings worked and said he would take their points to the Senior Management Team.

Meeting ended 1.55pm