



Bridgewater Primary School

Parent Forum Minutes



Date of Meeting:	30/9/24	Time of Meeting:	2.15-3.00pm
Attendance:	Mrs Henderson (Headteacher) Miss Lovell-McNamee (KS1 Lead and Wellbeing Lead) Miss Hopkins (Attendance Lead)		
Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome- aims and purpose 2. Changes to Penalty Notice for non-attendance 3. Place2Be 4. Any further questions/ comments 		

1. Introductions and purpose of meeting.
2. Mrs Henderson shared the changes to Penalty Notices (PNs) for non-attendance at school.
 - From 19th August 2024, there will be a National Framework for the issuing of Education Penalty Notices.
 - This holds all Local Authorities and schools accountable for the consideration of the issuing of PN's for any unauthorised absence from school.
 - LA's can only issue two PN's, per parent, per child within a three-year period.
 - Should another absence trigger a further PN, a S444(1A) aggravated offence will be explored.
 - The fine amount is increasing.
 - PN 1 - £160 discounted to £80 if paid within 21 days.
 - PN 2 - £160 flat rate with no discount for early repayment, must be paid within 28 days.
 - Introduction of a Notice to improve letter to be issued by schools.
 - Cumulative absence is now over a 10-week period.
 - There is a requirement for schools to update their Attendance Policies prior to the changes.

Questions were taken throughout the presentation including clarification of the above points and that this applies to children who are of statutory school age (5 years and 1 term).

EH explained that school will do all that is reasonably possible to engage parents in improving attendance before exploring PN. Non engagement would result in a fine.

All term time holidays would not be authorised in line with this guidance.

3. Miss Lovell shared information regarding Place2Be:
 - We now work with Place2Be, a children's mental health charity that helps children to explore their emotions and feel better about themselves.
 - Place2Be is there to help children find ways to cope, so their worries don't get in the way of their friendships, their learning or how they feel about themselves
 - Place2Be's professionals work with children one-to-one or in small groups, giving regular support for pupils who need it. This usually lasts for around 10 weeks of one to one sessions but can extend to up to 20 weeks, depending on the level of need of the individual.
 - Place2Be provides support and advice for parents and carers, as well as teachers and school staff. Parents can access supportive resources via place2be.org.uk/family or get in touch with our Place2Be staff member via the school office and Miss Lovell.
 - Place2Be always gets agreement from parents or carers before they support a child through one to one counselling. They also meet with parents or carers regularly to keep them updated and make sure they are involved from the start.

- Place2Be also offer a 'Smart Parenting' website which offers practical advice on supporting their child and managing their behaviour. Details of this have been sent to all parents and carers via a letter at the beginning of September.
 - Lynn is our Place2Be staff member.
 - She works on Fridays and is based in the SENDCo office.
 - Lynn will be working with four of our children in the Autumn Term and will be offering staff drop in sessions.
4. Further questions/ comments: There were no questions raised by attendees but it was shared unanimously by parents that afternoons were better than mornings for these meetings. Parents were encouraged to share any items they wishes to discuss at next year's parent forum by emailing the school office or by using the school suggestion box.
5. Next meeting Spring 1
Date: 2.15pm
Time: TBC