

Ramsgate Free School

PARENT REP MEETING Monday 5 October 2015, 6-7pm

Parent Reps

Abigail Holden	Coco's mum, Reception (Team Marshall)
Agnes Simon	Petra's mum, Reception (Team Marshall)
Aimee Trevelyan	Scarlett's mum, Reception (Team Marshall)
Emma Jackson	Henry's mum, Reception (Team Marshall)
Heather Burke	Lily's mum, Year 3, (Team Burgess)
Helen Sears-Stewart	Ryan's mum, Reception (Team Marshall)
Jordan Nicholson	Lily's dad, MMR (Team Marshall)
Portia Sharpin	Willow's mum, MMR (Team Marshall)
Sabrina Littlewood	Dahlia's mum, MMR (Team Marshall)

Cheryl Southern	Extended Schools co-ordinator
Nicholas Budge	Head of School

Parents wanted informal, friendly meetings and agreed notes would keep track of discussions and progress.

Nicholas explained the governance of RFS (Ramsgate Free School) -

The Academy Trust (5 no.) lead 15 Trustees (which includes RFS representatives) who lead the Chilton Academy and RFS Governing Boards - these are legal requirements and provide strategic direction.

Parent Reps could help improve the day to day running of RFS and help guide direction of the school and help children get the very best out of school.

Parent Reps considered a 'Terms of Reference' to guide them (attached).

Parent Rep objectives

To promote partnerships between parents, carers, teachers, Chilton Academy and the wider community.

To create a welcoming, inclusive environment and build a strong, school community.

To identify and represent the views of parents and carers on their child's education and school life.

To identify links to develop and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of our children.

Parent Rep meetings

Parents agreed to meet monthly. Once established, meetings may be termly?

Notes of meetings to be added to the school website and monthly updates in the school newsletter.

School community

To start, the group agreed to continue using varied means of communication to reach as many families as possible (text, facebook, notice boards, letter). The group were happy to share emails and considered developing the use of social media by setting up a closed group for parents.

RFS parents and carers are keen to build relationships with Chilton parents, carers and considered linking with the PTFA and Parent Reps, possibly termly.

School to send a letter home asking parents and carers of any known links to develop and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of our children - they could be employers, charities, community groups, voluntary groups etc.

Parents suggested a Careers Day for Years 5 and 6 when the school grows.

Photos on Facebook

Parents concerned about their children on Facebook even if they had signed the disclaimer.

RFS had already developed a new Policy - no faces will be shown, all shots now taken from behind the children. If parents still have any concerns **please speak to the school office.**

How best to contact the school?

Parents suggested home link books to find out what their child is reading etc.

The school had considered the best of ways of keeping families informed and chose to do weekly letters to include what they have done and will be doing. This removes the need for the teacher to fill in 30 books per day.

If any parent had any issue that they thought was important for the teacher to know that day, parents, carers should speak to the teacher.

If they can't speak to the teacher, then please inform the office ASAP (enquiries@ramsgatefreeschool.co.uk).

Promoting RFS

Parents felt that the local community don't understand the aims and workings of RFS. They bought into RFS' big investment, aspirations, high expectations and supportive environment. Parents were reassured of the school managing their children's additional needs.

Sabrina, Portia and Aimee offered to help.

School did have problems marketing the school without a site.

Parent Reps offered to attend Open Evenings (November, December and January) and events to help promote the school.

Good feedback was received on the school prospectus. The passion and way NB communicated gave parents the confidence that their children will get the children the education they want.

Parents suggested a short film to sell RFS (NB has a meeting about this tomorrow).

Case Studies

Case studies were discussed as a way to convey their own stories and help grow the school community; why they choose the Ramsgate Free School, any concerns they had, what convinced them that this was right for their child etc.

Mixed feedback on case studies. Some would have found them useful.

All agreed that there was too much information on each family, it should be one-sided, smaller (A5?) and include quotes. Heather, Helen and Sabrina will do case studies and attend the Open day (perhaps helping with tea and coffee as the 'humans' behind the case study if anyone wanted to chat more).

ACTIONS

Set up closed parents group on Facebook to include posts on 'how best to contact the school' - governance?	tba	Jordan to co-ordinate?	Facebook
Joint meeting with Chilton Parent Reps - termly?	20.10.15	CLS	
Monthly update in school newsletter		NB/Parent Rep	School newsletter
Sabrina, Portia and Aimee offered to help promote RFS	tba	NB/ Sabrina, Portia & Aimee	case study
Send letter home asking parents and carers of any known links to develop and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of our children - employers, charities, community groups, voluntary groups etc.		NB	letter
Open Evenings (November, December and January). Message? Display?	Next meeting		
Heather, Helen and Sabrina happy to do case studies and attend the Open day		NB	

Next Parent Council meeting, 5.30pm, Monday 9 November at Ramsgate Free School