

Parent Meeting at Parkwood Primary School – Monday, 4th November 2024

Q&A

Parent Question: For me it is about my children enjoying school and happy staff make happy children. It is good to hear the school will not change its name/uniform etc. but can we be reassured that the staff are not going to disappear?

PFT Answer: *All Parkwood staff will join The PFT and following staff meetings everyone seems to be happy about the transition. Teacher retention nationally is at 26%, in our Trust it is only 4% meaning our staff stay with us. We cannot say for certain that members of staff will not leave but staff do leave sometimes for personal reasons; moving, promotion, family circumstances etc.*

Parent Question: Will the academisation delay the next Ofsted inspection, therefore we won't know if the school is improving?

PFT Answer: *When the school academises it officially becomes a 'school without judgement'. Ofsted will usually return within three years of academisation. On 1st September the Ofsted Framework changed so this has an impact on schools that were working to the old Framework. We also have external Quality of Education Reviews as well as internal reviews to check school progress.*

Head Teacher Comment:

We will be in a much better position because the Trust carries out regular Risk Reviews, Quality of Education Reviews, Safeguarding Reviews and more. We are not having these checks or support from Medway.

Co-Chair Comment: *I have observed a Board Compliance Committee meeting and the staff and Board really know their schools well and have those skills to move them forward.*

Parent Question: Do you align term dates?

PFT Answer: *We work to the Local Authority term dates. We have schools in three different local authorities and we align our term dates to each school LA. This helps to ensure that parents and staff with children in different local secondary schools have the same school holidays.*

Parent Question: Do you have an early finish on a Friday?

PFT Answer: *No.*

Parent Question: Do you have two weeks in October half term?

PFT Answer: *No.*

Parent Question: Do you feel the school will be in a better financial situation than before?

PFT Answer: *It already is as we have been able to advise on some purchases/contracts where the school have already saved money.*

The Government give the Local Authority money for the school and the LA take roughly 10-12% and the school gets the rest. The school then has to buy-in services from the LA such as HR, finance, estates compliance etc, so effectively they are paying twice.

We take 8% but this includes the central services of Education, HR, Finance, Estates Management, Marketing, etc. We also run our schools with surplus budgets so that money then comes back to our schools for school building improvements.

Parent Question: What about speech and language and EP referral services? Is that still assessed by Medway?

PFT Answer: *We use the local authority for Legal Duty but we have access to Trust EP and speech and language services.*