

Parents Forum Meeting – 16th September 2015

We had a fantastic turn out to the first Parents Forum Meeting of the academic year, with more than 50 parents attending our 8.45am coffee morning and most staying for the Forum meeting that followed. There were two items on the agenda – The Bow Way and Home-School Communication.

After a short presentation on the Bow Way and what staff and students have said that it means for them – our parents put their heads together and came up with what they felt the six areas of the Bow Way meant for them. The session led to a lively discussion where parents overwhelmingly supported the school vision and the Bow Way.

Staff	What does this mean?
1. Respect each other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treating every child as an individual Parents modelling respect for staff and for other children Parents support school policies on anti-bullying and behavior Encourage our children to show respect for everyone Be respectful of other parents
2. Embrace diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respect each others' cultures Get involved in cultural festivals Find ways to help the school celebrate the diversity of its population Be informed about other cultures and encourage our children to know about other cultures Support our children in learning new languages Accept our children for who they are Model acceptance of others for our children
3. Work together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular communication between home and school Communicate with parents about detentions Communicate staff roles for parents so that they know who to speak to Advertise the fortnightly online newsletter to parents Ensure that the school has interpreters at events Attend parent workshops at school Work with students and parents where there are additional needs Parents supporting learning and school trips etc Share ideas and contribute to areas like the Parents Forum Let the school know if issues arise
4. Celebrate success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold trips for successful students Have parent and children bonding trips Celebrate significant cultural events Invite parents to award ceremonies and assemblies Let the whole school community know when something has been achieved Parents praise success at all levels – not just 'big' success
5. Rise to each challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage our children to attempt and try in all situations – especially new situations Encourage and support our children – especially if they are shy

	<p>Encourage children to come to school with positive attitudes</p> <p>Encourage children to enjoy learning</p> <p>Help children to see the important role they play in building the future</p> <p>Model meeting deadlines</p> <p>Supporting the completion of homework</p> <p>Encouraging our children to be ambitious</p>
<p>6. Learn from every situation</p>	<p>Every situation is a learning situation</p> <p>Talk to our children about what they are doing and help them to find the learning points</p> <p>Ask our children – what could you do differently/better?</p> <p>Evaluate each situation</p> <p>Help children to learn to think before reacting</p> <p>Always put school and family first</p> <p>Support your friends</p> <p>Encourage children to be happy and to value positive friendships</p>

Home School Communication

The final part of the meeting was a discussion about ways in which the school can best communicate with parents. Parents were clear that we have a fortnightly e-newsletter which they can sign up to have sent to their e-mail addresses, or which they can access from the Bow School website. The school also uses group call and will send letters and important documents, such as the Building Positive Relationships for Learning document home via the post. The school is committed to sending texts home whenever letters, or other documents are sent home with students.

Further actions:

1. School to check the details that it holds on all parents to ensure that phone numbers, e-mail addresses and home addresses are correct and up to date. This will take place on the Academic Review Day on the 25th September 2015.

The next Parents Forum Meeting will take place on 18th November 2015 at 9.30 am.

Please send any suggestions for agenda items to osheaj@bow-school.org.uk by the 11th November 2015.