



## Coffee Morning Minutes – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021

### Agenda:

- School Priorities 2021-2022
- Covid Update
- Ofsted - protecting children from harassment linked to: Rapid Review of Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges 2021
- The Avanti Way and Rights and Respecting
- Fire Drill outcomes and reasoning
- Over to parents for questions/areas they would like to raise

Mrs Walters welcomed and thanked parents for attending the Coffee Morning. There were 50 parents online at the meeting.

Mrs Walters introduced Mrs Sivadasan (Deputy Head) and Ms Vincent (PSHE and Music Leader).

### School Priorities 2021-2022

Mrs Walters shared the school priorities for 2021-2022 and reasoning behind each one. The areas are:

1. To implement a robust school improvement cycle through a rigorous self-evaluation programme, in depth analysis and strategic planning that enables the highest levels of performance and pupil outcomes.
2. Ensure consistent high quality teaching and learning through effective CPD that leads to outstanding progress embedding research principles of instruction with a specific focus on coaching, memory, sequencing modelling and questioning
3. Ensure the consistent/ progressive implementation of the Art and DT curriculum through subject level planning/scheme of work, which clearly sequences knowledge and skills progressively and embeds assessment
4. Refine the curriculum implementation to meet the needs of disadvantaged pupils (SEND) in the foundation subjects

**ACTIONS:** Mrs Walters would like to update parents on the progress the school is making towards each area and requested parents to volunteer to form a small group who would meet once per term to look at evidence with the Senior Team. Mrs Walters will send an invite to parents shortly.

### Covid Update

Mrs Walters recognised that parents were aware that Covid numbers at Avanti Court before half term increased. She informed parents of the involvement of the Borough and Public Health and that as the majority of cases were in Year 6 the decision was made to place Year 6 back into a bubble which would continue until the 12<sup>th</sup> November.

Pupils are still encouraged to wash their hands/ use sanitizer throughout the day. The school will continue to inform the Borough of any positive cases and respond to any advice they give to prevent the spread of the infection.

### Ofsted - protecting children from harassment linked to: Rapid Review of Sexual Abuse in Schools and Colleges 2021

Mrs Sivadasan explained where the evidence came from in terms of the rapid review and what the findings were e.g. The review included visits to 32 schools and colleges. In these, Ofsted spoke to over 900 children and young people about the prevalence of peer-on-peer sexual harassment and sexual violence, including online, in their lives and the lives of their peers. They also spoke to leaders, teachers, governors, parents and stakeholders.

As a result of the review Ofsted made a number of recommendations that can be found by visiting:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges/review-of-sexual-abuse-in-schools-and-colleges>

As a school, we have led assemblies on harassment in both KS1 and KS2. Pupils were given the chance through talk partners to explore what harassment means and what to do if they are being harassed in or out of school. We discussed the importance of telling a trusted adult and who this trusted adult could be. As a school, we take a zero tolerance approach to harassment but always run with the thinking that 'it could happen here' - this is the same approach we take towards abuse / bullying. Children through role play were shown scenarios and then had to identify what type of harassment was being displayed, how it makes the victim feel and what the victim needs to do to keep safe. Children were reminded about worry boxes that could be used if they feel unable to tell an



adult in words. Ms Vincent shared how the PSHE curriculum that we follow as a school supports learning in this area.

### **The Avanti Way and Rights and Respecting Award**

Ms Vincent explained the reasoning behind Rights and Respecting and how this links to The Avanti Way. The Rights Respecting School Award (RRSA) is an initiative run by UNICEF UK, which encourages schools to place the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at the heart of its ethos and curriculum. Our aim is that together pupils and the school community learn about children's rights, putting them into practice every day. The Award is not just about what children do but also, importantly, what adults do. In Rights Respecting Schools children's rights are promoted and realised, and adults and children work towards this goal.

Ms Vincent explained that we have an action plan in place so that we know the steps we need to work through to achieve the silver award and it is great that as a school we are already doing so much to reinforce children's rights. As a school, we see it as our duty to make sure pupils understand their rights so that they develop to their full potential. To do this, we need to promote the language not only in our school but also in the community. We recognise the importance of human dignity of all children and the urgency of ensuring their well-being and development, so that a basic quality of life should be the right of all children, rather than a privilege enjoyed by a few.

Article 31 was shared (leisure, play and culture) '*Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities*' and it was explained how Avanti Court ensures this article is met, for example, through the wide range of clubs we offer, Yoga, meditation, active playtimes, the PRE curriculum, the music and art curriculum.

**ACTIONS:** Ms Vincent would like to update parents on the progress the school is making towards the Rights and Respecting Award and requested parents to volunteer to form a small parent advocacy group who would meet once per term to look at the evidence and progress with her. Ms Vincent will send an invite to parents shortly.

### **Fire Drill outcomes and reasoning**

Mrs Walters explained to parents the reasoning behind the fire drill, which took place during collective worship recently. Most fires in schools are caused mainly by arson or start in the kitchen. As we have collective worship in the hall daily at the same time that the kitchen staff are preparing food we have to make sure that staff and pupils know how to respond in the event a real fire were to occur under these circumstances. Due to Covid and bubbles in the last academic year, assemblies were not allowed to take place in the hall. As a result of this, we needed to see, as a school, how staff and children responded so that we could address actions/ amend procedures to ensure the safe and timely evacuation of all individuals in the building. After the evacuation we were able to address issues that occurred for example: a number of children in the hall returned to collect their shoes rather than leaving the building as soon as possible/ not all staff remembered additional fire doors which could be used when exiting the hall quickly.

Mrs Walters sincerely apologised for any damp socks, however the drill was necessary to ensure staff and pupils know what to do in the event of a real fire. Since the drill, Mrs Walters and assembly leads have gone through the procedures with the children and staff. Mrs Sivadasan shared the positive outcomes from the Lockdown Evacuation that took place in Autumn 1.

A parent (Mrs P) praised the school's reasoning for the drill and made a very good suggestion that all pupils could have a spare pair of socks in their drawer/book bag so if the alarm is activated and their socks become damp they are able to change them.

**ACTION:** Mrs Walters supported this idea and said an Arbor mail will go out to all parents asking them to place a spare pair of socks in their bags.

### **Over to parents for questions/areas they would like to raise:**

Ms P- agreed with the school focusing on harassment and pre-empting areas that could be a concern. She asked how the school supports the victim and perpetrator so that feelings are considered. Mrs Sivadasan advised that we always speak to both parties. The perpetrator is given time to reflect on their behaviour and how this has impacted on others. Support is offered to both parties and then monitored carefully. Parents are also informed. When perpetrators reflect it gives them time to think about their behaviour and consider how the victim has felt and how this links to the school's values.



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Ms P asked if we can make sure that we teach children about what to do if they are being harassed and bullied out of school, for example, whilst at the park or pool. Ms Vincent said that we explore other areas that bullying could take place through role play in PSHE which gives the children the opportunity to practise their responses.

Ms N asked for an update on the secondary school. Mrs Pandya has provided an update: The Trust has confirmed the plan is still to apply for a secondary school via open school route. The Trust does not know when the free school applications will be opened.

A very positive meeting was held with MP Wes Streeting on 29th October 2021. Below are the actions that Wes Streeting has agreed to take forward for the parent group:

1. Research if faith/free school route is easier. Will have session with New School Group (this group helps to setup schools) to understand & update us on what will be the best way forward for Avanti Secondary School.
2. Write to Redbridge Council to know where the Council stands on the Avanti Secondary School
  - Wes Streeting's Office have informed the parent body leading on this that they have written to Redbridge Council's Director of Education, the Department for Education and the New Schools Network, requesting a meeting. The parent body will be informed once any update has been received.
  - As next steps on the school campaign, the parent body aims to get an engaging social media campaign started on Facebook to make the wider Redbridge aware of the campaign for Avanti Secondary school. The objective is to reach at least 1500 plus Hindu families within the Borough by early next year. This will help us to influence the local councillors as a pressure group and create better outcomes. For this we need the help of people with marketing skills who can lead/guide us on creating and running the campaign.
  - Post the social campaign setup, the parent body will create a political campaign to reach local councillors to influence the school application outcome and site for the school in Redbridge.

Ms S asked for additional meetings with teachers to discuss pupil progress. Mrs Walters explained that the school follows statutory guidance from the DFE which states that parents are to be informed of their child's progress three times a year. At Avanti we do this through two parent consultation meetings and a final school report. Mrs Walters explained that it would be impossible for teachers to set a meeting with the parents of 30 children per week due to teacher workload, however if parents have a concern about the progress of their child they could make an appointment to speak to them about their concerns. Mrs Walters also alerted parents to the yearly curriculum overviews, which are available on the website for all year groups.

Ms S asked for information about when LAMDA would start again, Mrs Walters has contacted the Trust about this and is awaiting a response.

Ms V would like to know if reception parents could view the Temple room. Mrs Walters said perhaps this could be combined with a session with Mrs Makwana (PRE Lead) who could talk to parents about the room, what happens in it and answer any questions.

**ACTION:** Mrs Walters to ask Mrs Makwana to set up a meeting for parents in the temple room.

Mrs Walters thanked all parents for their attendance.