

School Council Meeting

28th March 2018

Attendees:

Head Boy	Bailey
Head Girl	Hanu
Head of Mediators	Simon (Chair)
Year 1L	Ria
Year 1S	Nefertari
Year 2M	Laiyla
Year 3F	Emily
Year 3S	Ellie
Year 4B	Klajdi
Year 4T	Rhian
Year 5P	Autumn
Year 5S	Emilia
Year 6A	Prisha

Mr Leeming, Ms Campbell, Ms McEnroe (Minutes)

Apologies: Ruben, Abeer

Item	Note	Action
1.	Welcome - Simon Simon welcomed attendees and explained he would be asking a series of questions.	
2.	Actions from Minutes of the Last Meeting – Mr Leeming Ms McEnroe confirmed she had spoken to Kevin regarding the toilet door locks and replenishment of soap. Rhian confirmed she had spoken to Ms Tyler about girls passing notes in class. Bailey and Hanu were reminded to write a note of thanks to Denny for the donation of balls to the school.	Bailey and Hanu
3.	Q1. Is there any favouritism from the teachers at Melcombe? - Simon Hanu stated that sometimes teachers choose the same children for the same subjects. Mr Leeming stated that it is important teachers know the names of all the children in the class so they do not repeatedly select children because they know only their names. When he was trained, it was suggested that teachers try to write down the names of the children in their class after the spend their first day with them and make	

	special note of any they have not remembered.	
4.	<p>Q2. How do the dinner staff treat you? - Simon</p> <p>Hanu stated that if you are polite, the dinner staff are polite to you. If children are rude, the staff will not be rude to you, but may be annoyed with you.</p> <p>Tianna stated that sometimes the staff select a certain few children to have seconds.</p> <p>Prisha agreed with Hanu. When children are not mannerly, the staff can become upset.</p> <p>Mr Leeming stated that this shows that if you show respect, you get respect. Mr Leeming stated that he would be shocked if any of the staff had encountered any rudeness from staff, particularly as the all the children present are polite.</p>	
5.	<p>Q3. Is the school clean enough? - Simon</p> <p>Prisha said that in some areas the school is clean and nice. The bathrooms are not always as clean as they could be. The outside areas are mostly very clean; there can sometimes just be one or two items of rubbish around.</p> <p>Mr Leeming stated that the school had terminated the work of the old cleaning company because it was thought that they were not doing a good enough job. This had to happen gradually because of the cleaners' contracts. The new company has been working at the school for about two months and the school is cleaner. We are also better able to check up on the cleaning staff to make sure they are doing a good job.</p> <p>Bailey stated that some children who have toast drop the remains of it and don't pick up what they drop. Mr Leeming said that the Eco-Warriors should be informed of this.</p> <p>Action: Tianna to remind Mr Leeming to inform Ms Beanland regarding children dropping pieces of toast.</p> <p>Hanu stated that some children put food wrappers and paper in the toilets and block them on purpose.</p> <p>Emilia stated that at break time, sometimes there can be litter from food packets.</p> <p>Autumn stated that there can be times when there are no bin bags in the bins.</p> <p>Action: Ms McEnroe to let Kevin know that a student had</p>	<p>Tianna</p> <p>Ms McEnroe</p>

	mentioned there are times when there are no bin bags in the bins.	
6.	<p>Q4. Are there any problems teachers are not dealing with? – Simon Hanu stated that sometimes teachers can be biased towards certain children. Sometimes children are told something is their fault, sometimes the adults deal with it.</p> <p>Mr Leeming stated that if children are not happy with how an issue is dealt with, there is an adult in the Reflection Room every day, who they can tell, who will deal with it. Mr Leeming encouraged children always to tell an adult if they are not happy with something.</p> <p>Mr Leeming stated that the school pays for staff to keep children safe in the playground. There should be no bias or unfairness.</p>	
7.	<p>Q5. Are there any new bullies since the last meeting? - Simon</p> <p>Tianna stated that there are some children in older years who try and follow others and stick with people.</p> <p>Mr Leeming confirmed that the teachers had been made aware of one case in Year 6 and that Ms Campbell is working on resolving this.</p> <p>Ms Campbell thanked Tianna for mentioning this.</p> <p>Ms Campbell stated that Melcombe pupils are brilliant because they always tell the teachers about problems and they tell the truth.</p>	
8.	<p>Funding – Mr Leeming</p> <p>Mr Leeming stated that Melcombe has been successful in securing funding for two important things:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The Living Wall Mr Leeming explained that against the Nursery wall there will be a large structure with a lot of plants, similar to a wall the children may know at Westfield Shopping Centre. This will cost around £30,000. The Eco-Warriors are excited about this. Mr Leeming asked Members of the School Council if they knew why the wall is being installed. <p>Tianna stated that this is because of the pollution in the area and because the nursery children are playing in an area near the road.</p> <p>Mr Leeming confirmed that a representative from the Mayor of London’s office had visited the school to talk to Ms Cox and Ms Beanland about the pollution in the area and ways this could be tackled. Ideas had included putting a dome over the nursery garden and planting a</p>	

	<p>row of trees, but the most sensible and cost effective was a living wall. St Paul's School suffers more from pollution as it sits at a busy intersection of roads.</p> <p>ii. Repairs Due to Flooding During the heavy rain, the Art Room, the room next to Mr Leeming's room and Ms Proctor's room were flooded. The school should be accessing a budget to get the problems fixed.</p> <p>Tianna asked where the accounts people are working. Mr Leeming stated that Ms Proctor was currently working in Mr Morris's room.</p> <p>Autumn asked if funds could be raised for the British Heart Foundation.</p> <p>Action: Ms Campbell to consider the school raising funds for the British Heart Foundation.</p> <p>Simon asked if the school should fundraise for purchases like the living wall.</p> <p>Mr Leeming stated that a school fair makes about £1,000, whereas it can cost hundreds of thousands of pounds for things the school needs, such as building work.</p>	Ms Campbell
9.	<p>Foodbank – Ms Campbell</p> <p>Ms Campbell thanked the children who took part in the collection for the Food Bank. There were three crates and thirty carrier bags of food collected.</p> <p>Ms Campbell asked attendees to pass on their thanks to the others in the classes who had taken part.</p> <p>Action: All School Council Members to pass Ms Campbell's thanks to all children in their classes who took part in the recent Food Bank collection.</p> <p>Simon asked if the food that had been collected had been delivered.</p> <p>Ms Campbell confirmed that the food was delivered to the Food Bank after school yesterday. This will mean that children who do not have a good diet will have better food over the Easter break.</p>	All School Council Members
10.	<p>Prefect of the Week – Ms Campbell</p> <p>Ms Campbell stated that the best performing prefect each week will receive a certificate. It was established that Autumn's certificate had not been received. Ms Campbell will print another certificate for</p>	

	<p>Autumn.</p> <p>Action: Ms Campbell to print another certificate for Autumn.</p>	Ms Campbell
11.	<p>Q.6 What is behaviour like? – Mr Leeming</p> <p>Ms Campbell stated that behaviour at the school is good. Children who behave badly generally have other problems as well. Children are welcome to come and talk to Ms Campbell.</p> <p>Simon stated that his teacher has a ‘box of worries’. Children can put their concerns in a box in his class. Children who have caused a problem must apologise.</p> <p>Ms Campbell stated that she had introduced this idea at the beginning of the year and was glad to hear that it was being put into practice.</p> <p>Mr Leeming asked which classes had these boxes. Children from 4B and 6F confirmed that they had them. Mr Leeming asked children who did not have the boxes in their classes to ask their teachers for them.</p> <p>Action: Children who do not have boxes for their concerns in their classes to ask their teachers for them as they work well.</p>	All Class Representatives who do not have boxes for concerns in their classes.
12.	<p>Sport Relief Money – Emilia</p> <p>Emilia asked what happened to the money that was collected for Sport Relief.</p> <p>Mr Leeming stated that this was in the process of being counted and then would be banked and donated.</p>	
13.	<p>Q.7 Are the teachers nice to you? - Simon</p> <p>Emily stated that the teachers are kind to the children and treat them fairly.</p> <p>Simon asked if children were ever treated with disrespect.</p> <p>The Members of the School Council agreed that this was not the case.</p>	
14.	<p>Q.8 What are you most proud of at the school? – Simon</p> <p>Mr Leeming said that he felt the school was a happy and caring place.</p>	

	<p>Tianna said that she said the school is caring and it is easy to make new friends.</p> <p>Prisha said that everyone in the school is really caring, which is especially good for new people, and people are welcomed with open arms.</p> <p>Autumn agreed with this comment.</p> <p>Ms Campbell said that visitors often comment on the special atmosphere at Melcombe.</p> <p>Hanu said the school is joyful and caring.</p> <p>Bailey said that when children do not understand something in a lesson, the teachers help them understand it.</p> <p>Ria said that the teachers are nice to the children.</p> <p>Nefertari said that she has friends who are kind and play nicely.</p> <p>Ellie said that she was most proud of the tolerance at Melcombe and that children can get help when it is needed.</p> <p>Emilia said that Melcombe has the best Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teacher.</p> <p>Ms McEnroe said that Melcombe is a place where children can say when they feel something is wrong.</p> <p>Emily said that the school is a good place where children always want to participate.</p> <p>Mr Leeming said that visitors often say Melcombe is a place where children love learning and like to be involved.</p> <p>Mr Leeming said that the Learning Ambassadors take into consideration what the children think about the school.</p> <p>Rhian said that the staff treat the children fairly and that the school is safe.</p> <p>Klajdi said that he agreed with what everyone else had said, but he doesn't like the Blu-Tack that is stuck on the walls.</p>	
<p>15.</p>	<p>Q.9 How is the food? – Simon</p> <p>Hanu stated that it fills you up, but does not look appealing nor taste good.</p>	

	<p>Prisha stated that the food was good on some days and on others not. She said that she cannot eat beef as she is a Hindu, so when there is beef served, she has to eat the vegetarian food.</p> <p>Emilia says that on days when curry is served, she sees bins full of curry, but the roasts are good.</p> <p>Autumn said that lots of her classmates say that the food on Wednesday is best, but feels that the food every day should be best.</p> <p>Klajdi agreed that the roasts are good, but said that sometimes the potatoes can be burnt.</p>	
<p>16</p>	<p>Q.10 Have the school toilets improved since the last meeting? - Simon</p> <p>Emily stated that the toilets have improved.</p>	
<p>17.</p>	<p>Q.11 Do the PE teachers treat you properly? – Simon</p> <p>Klajdi said he thought teachers treat the children well, but thinks it is unfair that when some children misbehave then all the children in the class have to sit out. He thinks only the individuals involved should be punished.</p> <p>Rhian said that sometimes the PE teachers shout at the children.</p> <p>Ria said that once, in her PE lesson, the children were all about to get five hundred points, but then her team got given zero points.</p> <p>Ria said the PE teacher is her cousin, but still treats all the children fairly.</p> <p>Autumn said that the PE teachers are really good and hers has a good sense of humour.</p> <p>Tianna says they are good and they teach vital skills in PE. They give help when they can tell people are struggling.</p> <p>Hanu said she thought the PE teaching was good, but sometimes her PE teacher choses very sporty children for things and not others; also boys tend to get chosen and not girls.</p> <p>Mr Leeming stated he would talk to the coaches about this.</p> <p>Action: Mr Leeming to talk to the coaches about which children are selected by coaches in PE.</p> <p>Emilia said that PE can be fun but there is a coach who always choses a particular child to demonstrate.</p>	<p>Mr Leeming</p>

	Prisha said that the coaches make learning about different sports fun but there are three children who get chosen the most to help.	
18.	<p>Q.12 What situations can occur in the playground? / What's the playground like? – Simon</p> <p>Tianna said that the playground is good fun, though sometimes there is a lack of equipment. Adults are there if you need help.</p> <p>Prisha said that you can talk to your friends and there is time to make up if there is an argument.</p> <p>Ria said that her friends argue about skipping ropes.</p> <p>Bailey said that the playground can be fun but some children take the equipment and the teachers have to get it back. He suggested that there could be more tennis balls purchased to address this.</p> <p>Simon said that a large number of tennis balls had been donated, but then they were thrown over the wall.</p> <p>Mr Leeming said that if many children are playing football in the playground this can be difficult to manage, so the staff control how many balls can be distributed.</p> <p>Hanu said that some children can act aggressively and use aggressive language to children in lower years.</p> <p>Prisha said that most children act well. Occasionally there can be a fight, but if this happens, children get put into Reflection.</p> <p>Bailey said that he would put the bike shed in a different position, touching the wall, because balls get behind it and it is hard to get them out.</p>	
19.	<p>Q.13 Do you feel safe at the school? – Simon</p> <p>Ellie said that she does feel safe because the teachers and older children keep everyone safe. Also, her older sister asks her if she is OK and she says, "Yes".</p> <p>Emily said she feels safe and does not need to worry about anything as there are teachers, prefects and mediators to help.</p> <p>Hanu said she would change the building because it is old and rooms were flooded.</p>	
AOB 20.1	<p>Uniform – Tianna</p> <p>Tianna stated that she would like to change the school uniform to</p>	

	<p>make it more exciting.</p> <p>Emily agreed and said that she would like the boys to wear shirts and blazers.</p>	
20.2	<p>Time in Playground – Simon</p> <p>Simon stated that he would like more time in the playground because if he is feeling stressed, after a test, for example, he would like more time to relax and calm down.</p> <p>Ms Campbell suggested that maybe teachers were forgetting to practise Chime Time. Ms Campbell asked the Members of the School Council to gently remind their teachers to remember Chime Time.</p> <p>Action: All Members of the School Council to remind their teachers to do Chime Time.</p>	All Members of the School Council
21.	<p>Close of Meeting</p> <p>Mr Leeming thanked Simon for chairing the meeting.</p>	