

Behaviour & Safety Open Discussion: 20th November 2015

Participants: Eight juniors chosen from Class 3, 4 & 5 and Mrs B Paddey, Chair of Governors and link governor for Safeguarding/Health & Safety). The purpose and structure of the discussion and what would happen to my notes after the meeting was explained. The wording is taken directly from the answers given by the children.

Q1: What do you think about the standards of behaviour in school?

It is very strong, there are few incidents and these are mostly where children trip over and then blame someone else for this. In class a few children lose minutes and some have individual charts to manage their behaviour. All the participants thought this system was really good as it made the children with poorer behaviour work harder.

There are some incidents of running between the hall and the quiet area, which they knew children should not be doing.

Q2: What helps you behave well in school?

Charts and behaviour rules. Places to play and not to play. Lunchtime Stars - this is a reward system for good behaviour that allows them to gain privileges such as being first in the queue for lunch and being able to take a friend along with them. The In-Class Council scores the behaviour of the whole class each week out of ten.

If you do misbehave the teachers will pull you out of class and talk to you on your own, never in front of the others. The children commented that they liked this as it didn't make them look silly and it showed respect. If there is an incident at playtimes, it is discussed in front of the whole class and the teacher asks for those who were involved to talk to her separately.

Q3: Do you feel safe in school?

All the children said they felt really safe and that the new gates were very good as they kept people and dogs out. They felt the pond area was a real problem and there were a lot of nettles around the trees.

Q4: What would you do if you didn't feel safe at school?

Most said they would tell a teacher or an adult. One child said that if it were a little thing, he would sort it out himself but if it was more than this he would tell someone on duty. Another said that if teenagers came in the grounds out of school hours he would discuss this with the School Council.

They commented that they thought the logs area was much better now, however, one child complained that she had to wait for 10 minutes before her grazed knee was looked at. A couple of the Year 6 children interjected and told me that the system was that the member of staff on duty could not leave the playground but that they would send a runner, usually a junior, to the hall to request assistance.

Q5: How well do you think bullying is dealt with in school?

The children were unanimous that there was no bullying in school now. One child said she had been bullied three years ago but the teachers had changed and now there was no bullying. I asked them to tell me what they understood by bullying and they were clear that it was a continuous problem with one or more children and not just a single incident. They explained this further by giving me examples of a particular single incident in the past and a known bully that left the school 4 years ago.

Q6: How do you keep yourself safe in school when you use a computer or iPad?

There are privacy controls on Google which means that the website content is blocked sometimes. This can be annoying if you are researching something like shooting when we were looking at the Olympic games. Sometimes we can land on a site by accident where you know you shouldn't be but you would quickly shut it down. Mrs Cole can see all searches made on the computers or the iPads. Class 4 have personal passwords as well as a class one for some computer work.