



# Parent Council Meeting

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026



**Present:** Katie Rudge, Lucy Stanley, Diana Nickless, Susan Knott, Clare Taylor.

**Apologies:** Harriet Gill

**Chaired by:** Emma Richards **SMT:** Jodie Hales **Minutes:** Claire Mansfield

## Points raised by Parents:

### **After School Clubs and Tax Free Childcare Vouchers – can parents use them?**

CM has contacted one of our longstanding after school club providers to see if this is possible. They said they have done the research and discovered that in order for them to be able to accept vouchers as payment they would have to be Ofsted approved. They did not fit the tight criteria for this so decided not to pursue it.

### **Behaviour Log**

Before the Easter Break Mrs Hales held an assembly in KS2 to remind the children of two school policies, Behaviour and Uniform. Because both things were raised during the same assembly some children think they are linked. The Behaviour Log has been reinstated to address the increase of poor behaviour when the children are not in class. Running in corridors, disrespectful behaviour in the dining hall, poor choices on the playground during playtimes.

Teachers are led by the Behaviour Policy which enforces 2 minutes, 5 minutes and 10 minutes time out. Leading to a letter home to parents. This is difficult to continue outside of the classroom with different teams of staff during playtimes and lunchtime. Behaviour Logs are a separate system. Children are recorded in a log and every Friday Mrs Hales see the children who are in the log for 15 minutes. This is called a lunchtime detention and is seen as a consequence of poor behaviour. It is a quiet, measured meeting where children are encouraged to reflect on their behaviour.

### **Non Branded PE Kits**

The Uniform Specification was sent to all parents before the Easter break and is on the DPS website. Children are to wear plain or black non branded leggings, tracksuit or jogging bottoms and hoodies. No bright colours or obvious branding. School encourages this to ensure all the children look the same and there is no 'competition' with fashion branding. Children are permitted to wear the school branded hoodie, the blue and red rugby shirt or a plain navy/black hoodie as the more affordable option.

### **Set up for the spectators for events like Dancethon and Carol Service**

Parents suggest setting the spectators up in a U shape to allow for more to be able to see their child. Recently, the Marathon route was marked by SMT with ropes, chairs and plastic barriers and parents still stood outside of the area. PC agreed that if parents stood back more spectators would be able to see.

### **More information about the safeguarding incident at Knowle School**

SMT has passed on all the information that has been shared by the authorities to parents. Only heard what parents have heard on the grape vine. Coincidentally, Dorridge has recently increased security by installing a camera system on each of the four gates and changed the gate timings at the end of the day to ensure gates are closed for longer. A new fob system on all the main entrance doors is also planned.

To assist with the increase in security measures, parents are encouraged to ensure children arrive with all they need for the day to limit additional visitors to school delivering forgotten items.

### **Classes for Reception 2027**

The Published Admission Number (PAN) for September 2027 has been decreased to 60 for Reception as a financial security measure. This does not necessarily dictate a cap of 60 children. DPS started the current Reception year with 73 children in three classes and the rest of the school is full. 73 is considered the 'break even' point for Dorridge and if we can achieve that for 2027 there will be three classes again. Reception 2026 offers will be sent to parents this week, the only information we have at this point is that we have 96 applicants who have picked us as their first choice. Parents need to be encouraged to apply and pick us as their first choice should they wish for their child to attend Dorridge in September 2027. Nursery numbers for September 2026 are as high as previous years so we are hopeful three classes will remain viable.

### **Parents' Evening**

Some parents have commented that they prefer face to face Parents' Evening. They feel online is impersonal and time seems more limited. Parents feel the content of the online meetings is inconsistent amongst Teachers. Would it be possible for assessment results to be sent home in advance for parents to digest and prepare any questions?

Mrs Hales responded by saying there was a compromise with face to face appointments being offered in the Autumn Term and online in the Spring. PC agreed that the general feeling was a 50/50 split with parents' preference of face to face and online appointments. There have and always will be advantages and disadvantages to both. Mrs Hales added that what is discussed at Parents' Evening should never come as a shock to parents. If Teachers have a concern, it should have been raised prior to Parents' Evening. Parents should not place emphasis on test results which are a snapshot. What happened on the day of the test. Teacher Assessment results offer a more informative overview of how their child is doing generally. Tests are more for preparing the children for the process. If parents would like more time with their Teacher or Year Lead they can request an appointment by email via the school office or directly via Dojo. However, parents should be assured that if there were any concerns they would be contacted. Mrs Hales also shared that School Reports in the Summer Term will now be electronically sent to parents via Arbor. A lot of time has been spent by SMT and Admin to fine tune a system.

### **Traffic Drone**

SMT have been working closely with the Sustainable Travel Officer for Economy and Infrastructure at SMBC regarding traffic around school. On the morning of the PC meeting two drone operators from the team came to school and sent a drone up to monitor and record traffic activity around school during drop off. They will also return to do a similar survey during pick up time. This is to ascertain congestion patterns, parking etc. There may be enough evidence for an application to make Hanbury Road officially one way. The 20 miles per hour speed restrictions were also discussed during the PC meeting. Extending the restriction around school and neighbouring roads is in the pipeline.

### **Scooter Parks**

As part of the Sustainability Leadership and Climate Action Plans in Education school has plans to provide another scooter park which will be placed just inside the black gate on the EYFS/KS1 path.

**Next meeting: Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 1.30pm.**