

# **Wensum council - a strong voice for our young people**

## **Council meeting 2/10/20**

9.30 - 10.15

Chair: Pete

Minutes: Mark

Councillors:

Year 3: Harry, Ellie-Mae (in for Alissa), Finley, Lexi

Year 4: Adriana, Liam, Naomi, Ashley

Year 5: Lily S, Kaja, Mari, Jack

Year 6: Keegan, Hugo, Naima, Loyal

**Opening remarks:** Pete revisited the aims for the council - that the councillors are the mouthpiece for the children in their classes - and explained how the work that we do each Friday will feed up to Vic and SLT. Pete revisited the SIDP and stressed the importance of working as a school community - through this council - to identify areas that we want improve and provide solutions. Pete has been in touch with Alex Hand who leads Democratic Services at NCC to get help and advice on how we can make our work more closely resemble the structures, processes and procedures used at city and county level. More information to follow. The aim for today's session was to feedback conversations from this week's class meeting and record this issues identified against the two SIDP priorities. Expectations about how this would work were made clear and councillors were encouraged to make notes to aid the feedback to classmates.

### **SIDP: Behaviour & attitudes. Strand 2: respect for our shared spaces**

- **Bathrooms left in a mess:** Soap all over sinks and smeared on mirrors. Toilet paper in sinks, on the floor and not always flushed. Year 5 reported that a cubicle lock had been broken / removed and someone had tried to flush it. This meant that friends had to 'keep watch' while each other used the toilet. This was an issues raised but a number of classes.
- **Safety of personal belongings:** two classes reported that personal belongings had been hidden leading to worry and upset. One councillor reported that stuff had 'gone missing'
- **Cloakrooms:** Not enough pegs / storage for belongings (coats and bags) in the Year 3 cloakroom.
- **Outside spaces:** One councillor in Year 6 reported that he had seen some children not respecting the chickens (historical as we no longer have them), and the rabbits, banging sticks on the cage. Litter on the field from snacks.
- **Respect for staff:** The recent issue over disrespect to our new cleaner Isabella was raised provoking a short discussion about respect for all staff - that we are a team - and that indeed in the very uncertain times, a school would in fact not function or even open without the hard work of our cleaning and site staff.

## SIDP: Behaviour & attitudes. Strand 3: promoting children's physical health and wellbeing

- **Unhealthy snacks:** was reported that packed lunches brought in from home still contained unhealthy snacks in large numbers. This is despite regular messages going home about the issue.
- **Daily exercise:** several councillors raised the issue of not enough physical exercise with several suggesting that we try to introduce daily exercise. We discussed that in addition to the hour of PE we also have outdoor learning and homesteading which also promote health and wellbeing, there was a desire to introduce something daily. One councillor made reference to Pokemon class who do sensory circuits for 10 minutes each morning in the hall. Yoga was also suggested. As was introducing an additional options block where children can choose from a number of 'exercise' activities e.g. more PE, forest schools, gardening etc.
- **Swimming.** Year 4 raised the issue of wanting to see swimming back on the curriculum.
- **Food and drink:** More food options at lunch
- **Play equipment:** either these are not being brought out or stocks are dwindling, but children want access to more play resources at break and lunch time.
- **Furniture:** point raised about alternative furniture available in class. Tables, benches, chairs etc. The alternative furniture in Pokemon was referred to, as was the current trend in offices for people working standing up. Mark made reference to the long-term impact of back problems.

**Closing remarks:** Pete thanked everyone for their contributions. Minutes will be typed up and emailed to teachers and councillors will be asked to feedback to classes and start exploring solutions. Be prepared to feedback next Friday.