

Parent Focus Group

Objectives

An opportunity to enhance communication between the parents and the school:

- for the school to share relevant information on school policy / developments
- for the school to get feedback if required from parents
- for parents to pose questions relevant to the general policy and running of the school

Key Principals

Christ is the foundation of everything we do at St Mary's and the Gospels provide us with our influence and inspiration. At St Mary's we are committed to promoting:

• The uniqueness of the individual

We believe that every person is a unique individual, created in God's image and loved by Him. We are therefore committed to treat every person with equality of esteem and the respect and dignity due to a child of God.

• The search for excellence

We are called to seek perfection in all aspects of our lives. We celebrate the enrichment of the total community which flows from diversity of age, gender, racial and social origins, abilities, culture and religion. We are therefore committed to ensure that all are to be given every opportunity to develop their talents to the full.

• The education of the whole person

We offer young people the experience of life in a community founded on Gospel values and working in harmony. Through this and a variety of educational experiences and interactions we aim to prepare young people for a life of working with others in communities which may be diverse socially, culturally and religiously. We recognise that it is also important to help pupils to understand their own ethnic identity and cultural heritage as well as helping them to understand that of others irrespective of whether the school serves or is located in an ethnically diverse community.

• Closing the gap

We have the duty to care for all, with preferential consideration for the poor, and to ensure that we provide for those who socially, academically, physically or emotionally disadvantaged.

• Moral principles

Our belief in the Gospel message commits us to be in the forefront of the movement for social and racial justice and harmony. We believe this is fundamental to the common good. We aim to prepare our young people to serve as witnesses to these moral and spiritual values in the wider world.

At St Mary's we strive to meet these Key Principals by living out our Mission Statement.

Our school family at St Mary's wants this to be a safe, caring, creative and happy place, where we all have a fair chance to learn and grow together and to do the best we can. We do this by knowing and loving Jesus more and everyday and by following his teachings in a joyful way.

Forum Expectations

- The Forum is for discussing general matters relevant to St. Mary's School
- The Forum is not and cannot be an opportunity to discuss individual teachers, pupils or any other individuals associated with the school
- All communication should be respectful
- Individuals should be allowed to express reasonable views
- All meetings will be chaired and minutes will be taken
- Minutes will be posted on the school website

Attendance

Headteacher

All parents, carers and grandparents

Organisation

Each class will have 1 parent focus group representative (selected from among the parents of that class) who will gather the views of the parents in that class and contribute to the meetings.

- Meetings will be three a year – in the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms
- Meetings will have an agreed Agenda
- Meetings will be attended by a Governor
- Meeting will be held in the Church hall

Parent reps from the classes will feed back to the parents of their class through a biannual newsletter.

October 2016