

## Westways Parent/Carer Forum – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021 (9:30am)

**Present:** School – S.Fearnehough, C.Hollamby; Parents – 4; Note taker – L.Pocock

Agenda Items	Response	Further discussion / Action
1) What efforts are currently made to teach Black history and anti-racism in school, and could Westways consider signing up to some kind of anti-racist curriculum?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black history, diversity and anti-racism is integrated into school's curriculum. For example, the slave trade is taught through history and geography themes.</li> <li>• School is working hard to ensure these elements are interwoven into the curriculum as opposed to being bolted on through standalone events such as Black History month.</li> <li>• This academic year, work to audit and develop the curriculum, including upskilling staff through involvement in training and use of research and study materials – at half-termly meetings, this information is fed back to governors who question this work appropriately.</li> <li>• Work will continue to enhance this area as the school's approach to curriculum is that it is constantly improving and evolving.</li> </ul>	
2) Timing of this meeting: it's in working hours, so many parents can't attend.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School agreed and usually there are three forums per year, each at a different time. Due to the disrupted academic year, the forum has been slightly different.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School plans for forums in the 2021/22 academic year to resume a more regular schedule.</li> </ul>
3) Teaching homosexuality at the primary level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School explained that there is a new Relationships and Health Education (RHE) curriculum that will soon be launching following a period of consultation with parents/carers.</li> <li>• The curriculum is adopted from the Local Authority (LA) who have widely consulted with faith groups from across the city.</li> <li>• Even though school has used the LA curriculum, it has very much been adapted and tailored to meet the needs of our pupils. The Westways RHE curriculum has already been presented to and agreed by staff and governors.</li> <li>• School does not teach about homosexuality; instead it teaches respect for others, whatever</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A question was raised about the teaching of being transgender and the possibilities of leading children. School responded by talking about how units such as stereotyping and accepting differences, including transgender, are part of the curriculum and link in with the overarching themes. The content around transgender is light touch and age appropriate – school has worked hard to ensure this content is appropriate for all children.</li> </ul>

	<p>their sexual orientation. It also teaches about consent boundaries, staying safe and respectful relationships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through consultation with parents/carers, school is looking to reassure the community like it has already done with staff and governors.</li> </ul>	
<p>4) Staffing levels to provide support to children struggling with mental health and accessing/coping in school- is there enough? I have the impression that there isn't enough capacity, post-Covid a lot of children are likely to need additional support for some time. What are the plans around this?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School described current practices, noting the hard work of the inclusion team and how external services are bought in by school where there is a local authority shortfall. This includes private educational psychologists, alternative provision for children who are not able to cope with full-time mainstream school and outreach workers.</li> <li>• In addition, school has very recently advertised for a speech and language therapist.</li> <li>• Governors regularly interrogate expenditure as described above before approving.</li> <li>• School also described what they have done to respond to children coming back from lockdown to support their mental health and wellbeing.</li> </ul>	
<p>5) Bringing back the daily mile</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A brief overview of the daily mile was given for the benefit of attendees who had children in early years, and how this commonly operated in different classes.</li> <li>• School was pleased to share the good news that from September 2021, there will be a very experienced and skilled PE and Sport Teacher joining Westways – this will have significant positive impact on the physical activities, PE and sport across school, including the daily mile.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School will communicate to parents/carers with details on the new appointment later in the summer term.</li> <li>• Increasing participation in the daily mile will become part of the PE and Sport Teacher's responsibility along with many other exciting opportunities of the children of Westways.</li> </ul>