

Lunchtime Mini Mile - 21st November 2016

Governor – Kate Meecham

I undertook a mini mile following on from my monthly catchup discussion with Kate Fowler on the 21st November 2016..

I was reminded of the new initiatives in place during lunchtime. Unfortunately the lunchtime that I observed was wet which meant that two outdoor clubs could not take place.

I spent around 1 hour on the mini mile. I was first taken around by Kate Fowler and then given the opportunity to view lunchtime and ask questions by myself. I had the opportunity of speaking to the kitchen staff, four teaching staff and six students.

Feedback

The feedback from the changes to the lunchtime was generally positive from all staff and students. The clubs are popular with the children and the staff feel that they are an improvement.

Some comments and observations are below.

One member of Teaching Staff commented that the lunchtime clubs do put a strain on staff. They reflected that they did not mind this but would mind less if the clubs could be tweaked to use the time better as discussed within the comments below in relation to Film Club and the use of Electronic Games.

Film club – by the time the children have gathered in the room they only have around 20 minutes viewing time. This is not really sufficient for a start to finish programme. The comment was that the content of what the children watch could be more relevant to a topic. I understand that the children vote on what to watch. Things could be fun and educational.

Chill Out Room – Electronic Games. There is a football game at the moment. One member of Teaching Staff would again prefer for there to be a variety of games possibly with more educational content. Again, educational games can be fun. It was reflected that this is down time for children and this is their time but it is also an opportunity to support children in their education.

The chill out room when I went in was very noisy, due to the cancellation of the clubs. There was an alternative club running – a games club, that was calm and the children could select if they went to. Children who needed extra support had a TA present with them.

There was good staff supervision in every club I went in to. I was initially concerned as I saw children were walking up and down the corridors but when I stayed to watch they were clearly walking and travelling with staff instruction and the observation and supervision in the corridors was good. There was perhaps more pupil flow than usual as the weather dried up during lunch time and a number of children were supported and supervised in going outside.

During Parent Voice the quality of school food is raised and the lack of choice was raised. One parent asked “Why can children not choose a sandwich from school if there is nothing left that they like on the menu and that lunchtime supervisor”. I raised this both with Headteacher and with the

Kitchen Staff. The Kitchen Staff were clear that children do have to choose at the start of the day whether they have sandwiches or hot dinners. They also said that a few children will ask to have a sandwich if they don't like the dinners and they usually have a few extra.

I spoke to six students. Three of whom were sandwiches from home. Three were hot dinners.

All students really liked the clubs. They got to choose what they wanted to do. They all reported that they have more time to eat and that they really like lunchtimes in school. They did not have any suggestions to make in relation to further improvements to lunchtime set up.

They were however keen to tell me about the food. None of the hot dinner children that I spoke to were positive about school dinners. One reported that she had a hair in her lunch. Another told me that she had found something black in her food, she did not specify. The third complained that the food was always cold. They were not positive about the school dinners.