

POOLE PARENTS' VOICE FORUM MEETING

NOTES FROM 06/06/16;

SUPPORTING SCHOOLS WITH BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

Dorothy Ashby (Outreach Lead at Longspee Academy) spoke about their work in supporting teachers to manage behaviour in schools, due to social, emotional or mental health difficulties in school age children. There is a referral process which involves the school completing a form with the parents' consent. An observation of the child in a class environment follows this and then a joint plan is drawn up with the teachers and the parents input. There is no specific criteria for referral other than behavioural issues and although often the child is under-performing academically, they don't have to be underperforming to be referred. Their case load is predominantly boys. The principle is to upskill staff through the process and Longspee do provide valuable training for teaching staff to understand behavioural issues better.

ATTENDANCE AND HOLIDAY FINES

We were joined by Rachel Gauntlett from the Targeted Team of CYP & L to talk about this hot topic! Attendance in Poole Schools is currently at 95.3%, compared to the national average of 95.4%. This team's role is to support the schools, parents and pupils to increase attendance as the more time a child has off school, the more education they miss and this is proven to affect their results at GCSE level. The team deal with "persistent absence" which is attendance which falls below 90% and have very inventive ways of improving this figure.

Rachel clarified that the "holiday fines" of £60 per child per period of unauthorised absence still stand, legislation has not been changed and they await further guidance from the DfE. As a reminder, the Head Teacher cannot authorise ANY holiday in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances, which doesn't include "holidays are cheaper in term time", "we work shifts", "the whole extended family are going".

"EDUCATION EXCELLENCE EVERYWHERE"

Vicky Wales (CYP & L) gave us a whistle stop tour of the education white paper published in March 2016. This is the Government's plan for education over the next 5 years. You can read the white paper at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/educational-excellence-everywhere>

If there are any topics you would like added to the next agenda regarding an educational issue then please let me know. Also, if any other parent is interested in joining this Forum then do get in touch as each school is allowed to have two representatives, we meet once per school term on a Monday evening between 7 and 9pm.

Thank you, Dom Moody.