

NOTES FROM POOLE PARENTS' VOICE MEETING ON 15TH JUNE 2015

During this term's meeting the following topics were covered:

1. How Does School Funding Work?

Nicola Webb gave a presentation on school finance, laying out the education budget, school funding streams, mainstream formula, special schools funding, early years funding, pupil premium funding, capital funding and schools financial value standards. If anyone is interested in finding out more information on this then please get in touch with me and I can give you a copy of the handout.

2. Anti-bullying work in Poole schools.

Julie Murphy provided handouts on why children bully, advice on bullying etc, along with results of the anti-bullying questionnaire for schools from Sept 2013-July 2014.

In that academic year 109 incidents of bullying were recorded (across the 20 schools that responded). 63% of these incidents were recorded by secondary phase schools. In addition to these incidents, over 360 "friendship issues" had to be dealt with.

For your information St. Mary's will be involved in anti-bullying week in November, the school's anti-bullying policy is on the school website, the anti-bullying champion for the school is Laura Hickman (Pastoral Support Worker) and the E-safety champion is Mr Priest (current Year 3 teacher). Again, feel free to contact me if you would like to look at the handouts.

3. New junior school update.

The Ocean Academy (an Aspirations Academy) is on target to open in September this year with 3 forms of entry. As it is a brand new school it will initially only have Year 3 children for the first year.

4. Universal free school meals update for Poole.

These are currently being supplied by 6 different providers. There are no plans to change this provision by the Government. It is important to register with the school if your child qualifies for Pupil Premium (you can check this online) as not only do they get free school meals which every child under 8 is entitled to, but they also get a lump sum of money paid to the school each year for the specific benefit of your child, which could be used towards school trips, uniform, music tuition, extra equipment etc.

Dom Moody
St. Mary's PPV Rep.