

Parent Voice at Yeadon Westfield Infant School

The infant school have introduced a Parent Voice Group, which is the forum for parents and carers to have their say about the school. The group started as a coffee morning and then developed into a parents' forum however this proved unsuccessful as parents felt it was too formal.

The Parent Voice Group meet once every half term for about an hour (mornings or afternoons), the time of the meeting is timed for school drop off or school pick up. Parents are offered a relaxed environment, offered refreshments and given the space to have their say and share the views of other parents.

" I thought it might be really formal and stuffy but it's not"

The meetings are parent lead and a member of staff takes the notes. All meetings start with parents / carers talking about positives before they talk about issues.

The Parents Voice Group is attended by 7 to 10 parents and they have been instrumental in policy changes in school, feeding back the positive and other small changes they feel would benefit the school. Examples of how feedback from parents has influenced change include;

- Parents request for a school cook book was met. The book is now for sale and includes healthy recipes - to help families cook the same meals the children enjoy at school/ help children get used to school meals
- Changed school photographer as parents commented on poor quality
- Changed policy with regard to earrings and PE
- Parents contributed to consultation on uniform.
- Parents requested lifting no juice ban but this still remains due to negative impact on children's teeth.

" We have a separate facebook group not linked to the school but often if issues are raised on this site, we encourage parents to bring the issues to parent voice and they do!"

Other forms of communication used by the school to communicate with and gather parent's views are questionnaires, newsletters, emails and text messages. Very rarely does the school use letters.

To find out more about Yeadon Westfield Parent Voice Group visit their website, which is updated regularly with the Parent Voice notes.

<http://www.westfieldinfants.co.uk/index.php/en/parents-forum>