

Parent Panel Meeting 17th November 2016

Attendees: V Carr, J Ninnis-Jeal, S Smith, E Clare, A Shipley, C Wright, J Rhodes

Discussion Subject: P4C & RE

P4C – Philosophy for Children

Some of the group confirmed they were unsure of what P4C was, although Mrs Wright was able to give a detailed overview, Mrs Carr then explained that it was a program which allowed children to ask questions of their own about the world around them, creating their views while listening to others and accepting different opinions i.e. a recent discussion was about conflict and all that makes them feel and think.

The EEF (a government organisation) have very recently done research on this international program which has been proven to have a positive effect on children and their academic as well as social development. Elton Primary has been running this program for some years and has been very happy with the children's progress and their development which was commented upon by OfSTED.

The group unanimously felt this was a very important subject and understood the importance of developing children's minds to question and form their own opinions on subjects.

RE-

Mrs Carr informed the group that the government requires schools to teach a 1hr lesson each week on key world religions, that every school must show how well their pupils develop in SMSC (Spiritual Moral Social Cultural) and that our schools syllabus is set by the Chester Diocese.

The group discussed how 'religion' in schools has developed over the years i.e. no longer singing hymns or prayers in assembly and how important we thought it was to teach diversity and that it was ok to be different and have a basic knowledge of key religions, however most felt that it was important that our children did not feel preached to or at or brainwashed.

The group understood that along with the facts on each religion they receive a more philosophical format and are encouraged to discuss beliefs and how that might reflect on people's actions.

The group felt it would be a good idea to ask other representatives from religions to visit the school as well as our local Vicar which Mrs Carr agreed with and informed the group that several visitors from many alternative religions were booked to visit school in the new year.

We agreed that even in our small group there was huge diversity of opinion and that this is magnified when dealing with the expectations of over 200 parents, plus government expectations too.

The next Parent Panel meeting will be held on: 19th January 2017 at 1.30pm

We will be discussing: Internet Safety and the Prevent Agenda.

Please contact any member of the panel or school if you wish your views to be heard in the next meeting.