



# Alma Park Primary School

## Achievement Partnership Success

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### School Council Meeting Minutes – 22.01.18

#### **Present**

Mr Mason

3B Saniya and Husnain

3H Daniya and Idrees

4B Hannah and Toby

4M Layla and Iyan

5H Akhlaq and Alisha

5S Lawrence and Sabeerah

6H Wania and Huey

6G Anna and Sameer

Jessica and Helena (parents)

#### **Previous minutes discussed**

- Alma Awards
- Anti-Bullying week

#### **Current minutes:**

- Introduction of Helena and Jessica, the two parents who are running the consultation process for the changes to the school grounds
- Spoke about our school grounds and the different areas that we have and the vision behind the potential changes
- Discussed St Mary's school grounds and shared examples of what they have along with other schools to help provide the children with an image of what we are looking to achieve
- We looked at the different areas of the school grounds and the names of the areas to ensure that the children understood which part was being discussed
- Discussed the different sorts of activities / things that can be created in each area

#### **Action plan:**

- School council members to start to collect bottle tops
- Mr Mason to send out a class council activity for 29/01/2018 around where the children feel safe / unsafe at school
- Create posters advertising the bottle top collection

#### **To be discussed at the next meeting:**

- Look at areas that children feel safe in the playgrounds
- Look at what elements the children enjoy and would like to keep
- Continue to look at the plans and images of ways that the school grounds can be improved

**The next school council meeting will be on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018.**

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### Outdoor Spaces: School Council Consultation 1 Monday 22 January 2018

Present: Alma Park School Council, Mr Mason, Jessica Wood, Helena Lee

Apologies: Hannah Low

Jess explained to the School Council that we are currently working on a long-term project to improve the outdoor spaces within Alma Park school grounds and would like the School Council's input into how we can improve the areas; playgrounds, Thornlea, classrooms, orchard area, library bus area. She showed 4 mood boards for inspiration to spark off ideas and discussion:

- St Mary's Outdoor spaces
- Sensory Spaces
- Dens and tepees
- Adventure trails

Mr Mason asked the School Council: Out of the ideas from the mood boards, what really stands out and what would you like to see in the school? Pupils suggested the following ideas:

- Pond life; could link to Science curriculum; needs gate/ fence to be secure
- Fountains; could make paper boats/ put petals in water to observe movement of water and wind; also as seen at Chester Zoo
- Music area with outdoor instruments
- Paintings near playground; subjects could include portraits of children, AP badge, observational drawings from Thornlea
- Maze
- Adventure trail that could link areas
- Zip wire
- In the ground trampolines – like the ones in small park near Greenbank
- Monkey bars with soft ground underneath
- Cartoon wall on Community Room
- Dens; dens for sketching
- Tree house; should be quite low so it's accessible to all
- Reading areas in orchard
- Use tyres for planting; gardening club could take place at lunchtime and pupils could also take seeds home to grow at home
- Use tyres for playground; make swings, path, stacking, rolling

They also commented on the following issues that need to be addressed:

- At lunchtime some areas are off-limits because there aren't enough staff to supervise all areas and activities
  - Climbing frames: Year 6 students can't go on them; some children are really confident to go on them which can scare the less confident children off, especially the tube
  - Confusing rules about what spaces and activities are allowed to be used; sometimes you are and sometimes you aren't
  - Blue pipe on climbing frame needs to be safer
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Mr Mason explained that as part of changing the school grounds, some of the plants will have to be cleared and he asked the School Council about the pros and cons of doing this:

- It is good to clear the grounds so that staff can see what pupils are doing.
- Cutting down trees can be bad because we need trees to breathe.
- We can reuse and recycle the trees that are cut down to make dens, paper.
- We can also plant new trees, especially in front of the school fence, which will make the fences look nicer.

Jess explained that a tree specialist has been into the school to look at what trees need to be cut down because they are unhealthy or stopping other plants from growing.

Jess set the School Council the task of collecting bottle caps, which will be used to create wall art. A pupil suggested that we look at wall art that she has seen at Whalley Range High School that was created by pupils from the school using bottles.

### **Actions:**

- Mr Mason will work with the School Council to spread the word and to make posters for the bottle cap collection.
  - Jess to send aerial view of site and photos of each designated area to Mr Mason.
  - Mr Mason to create map from images for School Council to discuss where they feel safe/ unsafe/ happy/ enjoy within school grounds.
  - Helena to write up notes and distribute.
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