



Parent Council Minutes 08.06.26

VR Headsets

Mr Aggus introduced the new VR headsets to the Parent Council. These are a shared Trust resource, purchased using Trust funds. A total of 72 headsets have been acquired and are distributed across the five Portico schools.

The headsets provide opportunities for pupils to experience aspects of the curriculum that are otherwise difficult to visualise, bringing learning to life in ways that cannot be achieved through books or images alone. Content will be carefully matched to the curriculum and used thoughtfully to ensure it remains engaging and maximises its impact on learning.

Some classes have already trialled the headsets with positive feedback. Pupils who prefer not to use them will still be able to take part by viewing the content on the whiteboard.

For safety and effective use, the headsets have a built-in timer limiting usage to 15 minutes, and they are designed to be worn comfortably with glasses.

Ofsted

Mr Aggus provided an update following our recent Ofsted inspection. These inspections take place every four years, and this was conducted under the new Ofsted framework. We are among the first schools locally to be inspected in this way.

The inspection team, led by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI), was thorough and fair in its approach. We were very pleased with the outcome, as only a small percentage of schools nationally have been judged as 'Strong' across all areas.

Impact of Pupil Voice

Mrs Carr spoke to the Council about the impact of the School Council and the positive changes they have led over the past year. The School Council meets fortnightly, with representatives elected democratically by their peers. Members represent their class, sharing ideas and suggestions put forward by fellow pupils. This ensures that children feel listened to and recognises the important role they play in contributing to the life and development of the school.

All of the recent changes can be found on our website:

[SCHOOL COUNCIL | westleighjunior](#)

TTRS

A comment was raised suggesting that the request for Year 4 pupils to practise Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) over the half-term period appeared to contradict earlier messaging around online safety and reducing smartphone use.

TTRS is a secure, education-focused platform that does not include any social or interactive features and is not classified as a social media application. While children can practise their times tables in a variety of ways that do not involve screens, there was a specific benefit in using TTRS on this occasion. The format of the app closely mirrors the DfE Multiplication Tables Check, which pupils were due to complete immediately after the half-term break.

Swimming

It was noted that some children in both the Infant and Junior phases find the noise levels during swimming lessons challenging. It was acknowledged that swimming teachers need to raise their voices so instructions can be heard clearly over the water, particularly to ensure safety. It was

suggested that swimming teachers introduce themselves to new classes, such as in Year 1 and Year 3, to explain how lessons are structured and why raised voices are sometimes necessary.

Year 4 to 5 Feedback

Parents reported that feedback on the reorganisation of classes between Years 4 and 5 has been overwhelmingly positive.

Thank You

Thank you to all members of the Parent Council for your ongoing support in helping us make positive changes and ensuring we benefit from the views of our parent community. We would also like to extend a particular thank you to our Year 6 parents, some of whom have been valued members of the Council for many years.