



West Leigh Junior School Parent Council Minutes 02.03.26

1. Review of Actions from Previous Meeting

Boys' Choir Rehearsal Process

Changes to the rehearsal process will be implemented from September.

Swimming Changing Rooms

The issue regarding unpleasant smells has been reported to site staff and the cleaning team.

Arbor Issues

Concerns have been fed back to the school office.

Email Communication

Clearer headings have now been added to emails to make them easier to locate when searching.

Lockdown Video

Suggested amendments will be made.

2. School Photographs – Parent Feedback

The majority of parents prefer formal, outdoor photographs. The school will facilitate this where weather conditions allow.

Some concerns were raised regarding the use of superimposed backgrounds for individual photographs. This feedback has been noted, and the school will aim to avoid this approach in future where possible.

3. School Crossing Patrol and Parking

A query was raised regarding the informal “drop-off zone” that has developed at the top of Ronald Hill Grove and Marine Avenue, along with a request for a school crossing patrol. A crossing patrol person was also requested.

The process for requesting a crossing patrol in Southend differs from Essex (as referenced by a parent), but a request has been submitted; however, approval is unlikely as there are already designated crossings available for parent use.

Actions Already Undertaken:

- Contact made with the local councillor.
- Request submitted for traffic enforcement cameras.
- Local MP informed.
- Additional parking patrols requested.
- Reminders included in the school newsletter.
- School Council arranged to distribute letters to parents.

Clubs Drop-off

A request was made to reduce parents stopping outside the school when dropping children off for clubs. The school will continue to remind parents, though enforcement remains challenging.

Suggestions Raised

- Park and ride scheme.
- “Walking crocodile” initiative.

Marine Avenue Area

The infant school is responsible for the area near Marine Avenue. Feedback will be passed on to them.

4. School Clubs

A question was raised regarding lunchtime clubs (e.g. Science Club), including sign-up processes, one-term limits, and the possibility of running popular clubs on multiple days.

- 83.5% of pupils have attended a club so far this academic year.
- Limits are in place to ensure broader access and give more children the opportunity to participate.
- Teacher capacity is limited and it is therefore hard to put on additional sessions for existing clubs.
- The school is able to facilitate clubs run by parent volunteers (e.g. Chess Club).
- Parents are welcome to come forward to support additional provision.

5. Equal Opportunities

Concerns were raised that the same children appear to be selected for multiple roles (e.g. sports teams, School Council, Eco Warriors), leaving some children feeling discouraged. A suggestion was made that teachers select School Councillors following speeches, rather than pupils voting, to reduce the risk of popularity-based decisions.

- School councillors and team captains are selected via a democratic process – this is an important part of our personal development programme in order to teach the children about democracy.
- Participation and representation are carefully tracked and monitored.
- To date, 73.5% of pupils have either represented the school or held a leadership role this academic year.
- Opportunities increase as pupils progress through the school.

6. Year 4 to Year 5 Transition

Parents asked when details about the transition process and class allocations would be shared. Information will be communicated shortly via letter. A parent meeting will also be arranged.

7. Mersea / Arbor Issues

It was acknowledged that reopening Mersea bookings without prior notice, once technical issues were resolved, caused concern among some parents.

This feedback has been noted for future planning.

Our next meeting will take place on Monday 18th May.