



20 March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was a pleasure to meet with so many of you yesterday at our Governor Consultation Meeting. We had a good discussion around four key themes:

**Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) at Glodwick:**

Parents raised concerns about the school's response to the proposed changes to SRE from September 2020. The Governors and I explained what our current policy and practice is and that this is shared on the school website under the tab 'School Information'. We talked about moving forward and that Glodwick will ensure that SRE is age appropriate. We discussed the definition of 'age appropriateness' and agreed that it is important to answer children's questions but, this would be done on a one to one basis, in an honest way, but without going into depth. The question raised by the child would be shared with parents on collection that same day. We agree that there are some issues that it is best for children to talk about within their family setting. We also talked about ensuring that the curriculum is appropriate to the religious beliefs and customs of our families. As we move towards the delivery date of September 2020 we will share Oldham Local Authority guidance with parents, our reviewed policy – which we do not consider at this time, will be very different from the one we follow now and we will consult with parents and our governing body. We were very pleased that a member of the Inter Faith Forum attended the meeting yesterday and asked questions on behalf of parents. We are also lucky to have Muffi Helal Mahmood as a parent governor, who also works for the Inter Faith Forum.

**Holiday Pattern:**

The changes to our holiday pattern for 2019/20 and 2020/21 were discussed. Oldham Council set the Holiday Pattern allowing Community Schools, like ours, to change 5 days within that pattern. At Glodwick we worked out a way to maximise, learning time and provide a long holiday period for our families who will be celebrating Eid during the May Half Term. This decision was taken by the Governing Body and approved by the Council. We have an unacceptable high level of persistent absence at Glodwick and it is imperative that we work together to reduce this. As a school, we will take on board any recommendations and suggestions from parents when we are looking at the 2021/22 holiday pattern.

**School Photographs:**

Some of you enjoy having a school photograph of your child. We took the decision to stop doing school photographs during the school day because of the amount of lost learning time and organising that this took. Last year, we held an after school session for parents who decided in advance that they wanted to attend. We agreed at the meeting yesterday, to offer this option again and if we get a positive response, we will arrange for a session after school. We will be sending out a letter very soon.

**Ofsted:**

It was lovely to be able to share the positive 'Outstanding' outcomes of our February Ofsted Inspection. We are very proud of our staff and children. Parents complimented our school during the meeting and talked about the strong leadership. We are very happy that our families are pleased with our education offer. However, we do need to make an improvement to our overall attendance percentage, which is currently 94.2%. It needs to be as close to 96% as we can get it. We cannot achieve this without your help in bringing your child to school every day and avoiding taking them on an extended absence. Please help us.

We hope that you have found this report interesting and helpful. Please try to make the next meeting with the governing body. It is great opportunity to get to know one another and discuss important things together.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. J. E. A. Brierley

Head Teacher, on behalf of the Glodwick I and N School Governors