

Parent Forum Agenda

Actions resulting from discussions in previous meeting:

Learning Together sessions are now always on a morning as this was felt to be a part of the day that was easier for parents to attend.

Attending

Mrs Palmer

Number of parents – 4

Trips and visits costs

The cost of trips, including residential visits was raised. Is this a fair expectation?

Mrs Palmer explained that it is difficult to balance the opportunities offered and the cost to parents. To do this the following actions are taken:

- The school does try to keep costs down but also wants to ensure that the children have a broad and high quality offer of experiences.
- In an attempt to support the community all visit costs for families in receipt of Free School Meals are met by the school.
- A planned programme of visits has been created which can be found on the website [Personal Development | Sharow Primary School Curriculum](#) This has been planned so that each class has one visit per term, costing approximately £20 (excluding residential visits). Sporting events are in addition to this and sometimes there are low cost, local opportunities too.

Trips and visits payments

Parents and Carers are encouraged to talk to Mrs Palmer if they have concerns about payments, to work together to find a solution.

Mrs Palmer shared that there is a growing number of contributions paid but that the school still experiences a shortfall.

Could a 'pot' be created on Arbor so that it can be added to throughout the year? Mrs Palmer would investigate this with Mrs Elcombe but pointed out that people could open a personal account to accumulate this money.

It was suggested that there should be explicit wording stating that any contribution is welcomed even if the total cost cannot be offered, and that the window for payment remains open for a couple of weeks afterwards.

Also, a request for likely costs to be shared at the start of the year so that families are able to budget for them. As an estimate, trips and visits across the year amount to £75 in EYFS and KS1, and £350 in KS2.

[Trips and visits offered](#)

It was suggested that not all the trips and visits are educational. This was mainly focused on the recent trip to Catterick Armed Forces Day and sporting events.

Mrs Palmer pointed out that approximately 10% of the school belong to a forces family and that it is a wonderful opportunity for these children to talk about their family with pride, sharing their knowledge and experiences with their friends. It also provides other children with the opportunity to learn about the nation's forces.

A parent in the meeting said that they were especially pleased with the sporting competitions offered and that this was much better than their previous school.

Sporting events and competitions are a vital part of our school's commitment to our value of health, and developing well-rounded, confident, and resilient young people. These activities offer far more than physical exercise—they foster essential life skills and strengthen our school community.

[AI on Facebook](#)

A parent asked:

In light of ChatGPT and AI, social media platforms have amended what they can do with uploaded material, so that they can train models on that content. The school obviously has a Facebook page with photos of the children on; has there been any consideration around amending the page settings so any content uploaded is excluded from these AI uses? If the page settings aren't amended, will this be reflected in the consent forms provided to parents?

This has been shared with the school's Data Protection Officer and we await a response. Parents will be updated when further action is taken.

Speeding

As an outcome of one of the last forums, it was suggested the children might be writing to our MP/NYCC about speeding in Sharow- was this followed up on?

Apologies, this was not followed up but has been added to the next school council meeting agenda.

Calendar Changes

Could changes to the calendar on the newsletter be identified – perhaps colour coded? The school believes they already highlight additions, but will check this is happening.

Booking wraparound care

How far in advance can wraparound care be booked?

- Breakfast Club bookings must be made at least 48 hours in advance of the session.
- After School Club bookings can be made up until 3:15pm on the day.

If you need to book last minute and it is unavailable on Arbor, please contact the office.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to join the meeting.