



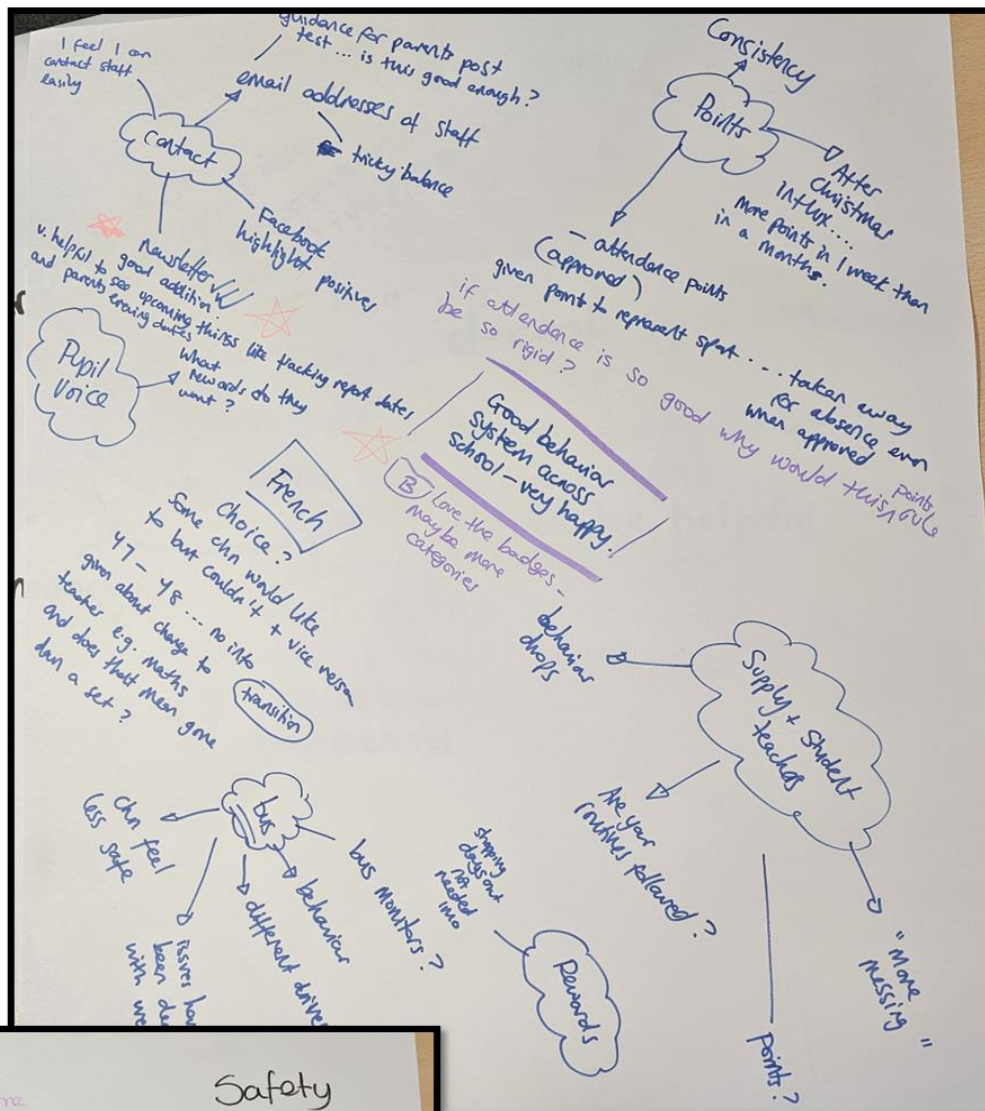
Bishop Rawstone Parent Forum 2024/25

10th March 2025 - 2nd forum of the year (2 of 3)

Focus – Behaviour Attendance and Communication

<i>Staff in attendance:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair – Mr Duckworth – Assistant Headteacher – Pastoral Care, Attendance, Worship • Lead Speaker – Mr Duckworth • Mr Stephen Gregson – Chair of Governors • Mrs Julie Hughes – Governor – Behaviour and Attendance
<p>Mr Duckworth opened the meeting with thanks to parents for ongoing attendance and explained that this forum would run a little differently to allow group discussion and feedback and also to create mind maps and displays that could hopefully provoke thought and discussion around the school about what we do well and what we need to look at.</p> <p>A 10-minute presentation on the school’s ethos, vision and verse was given, and Mr Duckworth explained how this all linked to the way that we have built our behaviour policy and our internal behaviour management system. Mr Duckworth explained how schools have changed in the last 15 years and the focus now more than ever before is on building relationships, supporting young people with behavioural challenges, avoiding where possible shouting and berating students and now using language of positivity and giving students the choice to change. As a Christian school Mr Duckworth also clarified the need for reflective practice and being able to talk to parents and students about how things, where appropriate, can be done better or differently.</p> <p>Mr Duckworth also compared schools’ behaviour data with other like for like schools showing that Bishop Rawstone has been consistently strong for over 10 years with behaviour management and was in line with national expectations. The following questions were asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do your young people feel about our behaviour system at school? • Do your young people feel generally safe in school and know who they can talk too? • Do your young people feel in most of their lesson’s behaviour is well managed? • Are there areas that they feel behaviour could be managed better - if so where and why? • Do you understand the rationale behind our behaviour systems? • What do we get wrong and how could we improve? <p>Parents were then put into groups and asked to create mind maps on poster paper. They are attached below.</p>	





Rewards

- postcards home are good
- phonecall home nice
- Reward lunches
- selection boxes
- B for bishop!

Safety

- they know who to speak to

Communication

- great with teachers
- Sims good for homework
- emails dealt with quickly
- reassuring can speak to staff

Behaviour

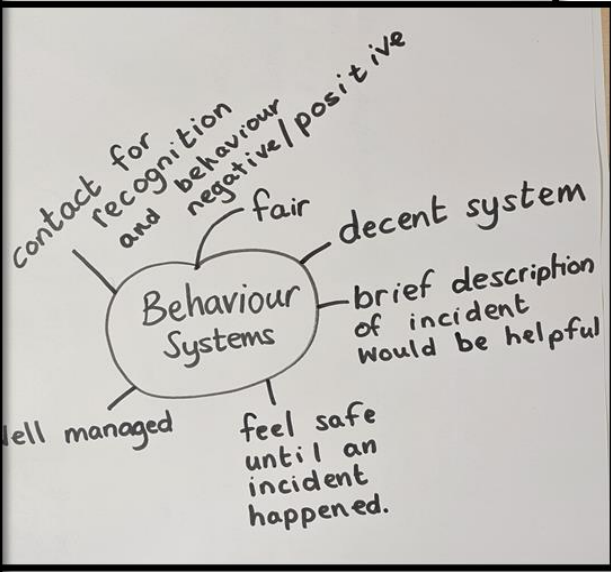
- worse with substitute teacher
- Behaviour on Bus

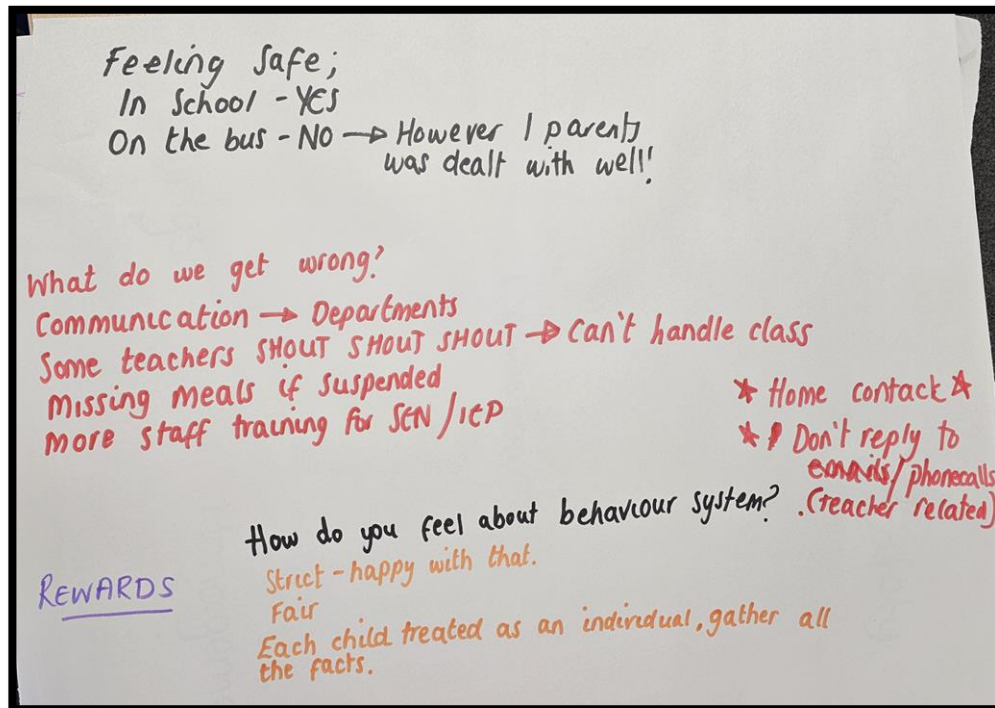
Feelings

- upset in yr 7 at BI
- Support at home
- Sims reports to home are good

Management

- Audit of behaviour system
- more consistency with staff managing behaviour, especially substitute teachers





KEY POINTS OF DISCUSSION THAT FOLLOWED THIS:

Children generally do feel very safe. School does do lockdown practices – but due to emotional concerns these are always scheduled, and students do know. Whilst an unannounced fire drill is not too distressing an unannounced lockdown could be terrifying and triggering.

We handle issues on the bus as well as we can – but rely on students to inform us of the situations that are occurring. The lack of CCTV on the busses does make dealing with issues tricky but at least one parent also confirmed that they have had a very positive outcome from bus related issues. The governors present are considering methods to support school with this battle by communicating with the local authority.

Mr Duckworth clarified that the “points” totals across the school are amended to ensure that older students get access to rewards. A discussion about the disparity in points depending on the staff that you have was brought up – consistency is the key to resolving so many of the issues that we do have – not just with points.

Rewards events are 6 times a year with 150 children – breakfasts, vouchers, selection boxes. School is always open to ideas and Mr Duckworth encourages staff, students and parents to offer suggestions. Mr Duckworth also calls all parents when children achieve gold badges, and this is really appreciated. Parents said that the newer coloured Bishop's recognition badges work well.

Parents would like more info on what B1's are issued for and an indication of how serious this might be. Mr Duckworth clarified that the reason this is not the case is because of the limitations of the SIMS system – however from August 2025 there are plans to amend how we utilise this system to communicate with home.

Communication between departments, the main office and teaching staff was flagged up as an area for improvement to ensure that all students are getting access to the support that they need and that consistency that they desire. Mr Duckworth clarified a desire for communication to be better – but that also with so many different young people and

the different needs that everyone has it can be very challenging for school to always get every interaction correct and every bit of communication to where it needs to be.

A training issue was raised – that staff could be more aware of how to handle students with different learning needs. This is being looked at to be delivered through staff member Asa Burton

There was a discussion about bullying in school. It definitely is still a thing – but is no longer as physical – it is now much more emotional and online.

A lot of parents acknowledged that there was a real change in behaviour with regards supply staff / cover supervisors. Mr Duckworth clarified that school does all that it can to support these teachers – but that the general quality of supply agency staff is not as strong as it once was meaning that often these are the areas that behaviour issues arise. It is a balancing act. Staff need to be allowed to do visits, CPD and be ill, but at the same time we want to have good quality teachers in front of the students.

There then followed a discussion about attendance and our attendance statistics being again overwhelmingly positive compared to national. We are above average and consistently in the top 10% of similar school on FFT comparisons.

Mr Duckworth explained the letters and communication with home come from the local authority, and we are bound to follow the guidance and safeguarding and communication procedures. Also, as a Christian school we will always carefully consider the reasons why people are requesting absences and where appropriate we still authorise time out of school. One parent commended the school on doing brilliantly with attendance communication given the few staff that manage it in school.

Mr Duckworth does intend to contact all parents in the summer with updates to attendance procedures and a FAQ guide as to why certain letters are triggered at certain times – and why school must follow the procedures that it does.

The final part of the discussion was around communication with home. 3 main points came from this.

Firstly, parents are very pleased with the new newsletter. It's very well received

Parents at the forum would prefer face to face parents evening not online. Mr Duckworth explained the rationale behind this, and that we had put this in PRIOR to Covid – not a knee jerk reaction – and that many parents are very positive about the system.

A few parents stayed back and commented that there were inconsistencies in the way that calls were dealt with when they contacted the office by telephone.

The forum closed at 7pm

As parents left, they were asked to write down positives as to what school does. Again, these are visible below.

Award System ✓ Gives Children a Clear, achievable Target. ✓

Badges → great for sports + a boost for children

Newspapers
Really pleased with the school overall - great ethos.

Issue on bus dealt with brilliantly - Year 7 pupil (f)
Initially had reservations on rewards or felt like academic young people were forgotten about. Since feeling this we have had the 30 letter and amazon voucher. Will email other reward ideas.
Thank you

I will email re +ves - THERE ARE MANY!
but just 1 for now:

Miss Hyman email yesterday regarding Martha's difficult situation w re:-
acknowledged, dealt with sensitively, opportunity to review if necessary.
THANK YOU.

Communication with school and from school is consistent and reassuring. My child knows who to contact and that he will receive a response. On the only occasion I have needed to contact the school with a problem (about the behavior on the bus) this was dealt with swiftly and effectively and communication was excellent.

You provide a warm and nurturing environment for our young students and my ~~sons~~ children both really enjoy coming to school each day.

Thank you.

THANK YOU !!
We are so thrilled with the school. My daughter struggled with (hormonal-related) anxiety in Y7. She came through it + to have her Head of Year ring me + tell me how proud she is of our daughter - now she's in Y8. That is better than any reward system. Knowing that you celebrate her.

My daughter in year 10 has had fantastic support in particular from her head of year during her journey. I have felt listened to and supported as a parent and anything that has required attention has been addressed in a timely manner and I have received feedback. On the whole my daughter feels that she has been well supported and that behaviour is managed quite well and the system is fair.

Prompt response to email via phone call or reply email.
Feel the info is useful and helpful.
Thank you.

School feels like a safe place for my daughter to be.
Feel like communication is good with home. Like SIMS for homework.

Care for our young people