| **Date:** 16/10/2026 | **Meeting Type:** Parent/Carer Forum |
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| **Present:** Kereice Heaven (Y3) – Chair, Rashpal Joice (YR) Catherine Reddin (Y6/Y4), Genevieve Joseph (Y2) Kimberley Huq (Y3 & Y1), Claire Durkan (Y1), Priti Patel (Y2), Angela Badger (Y4), Kateryna Ishchenko (Y4), Rachael Macklearn (Headteacher) and Jemma Chawla (minutes) | |
| **Absent/Apologies:** | |

| **Minutes** | **Actions** |
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| KH welcomed all to forum. Thanked those who had collated parent feedback. | |
| **Photographs in schools – no longer allowing parent/carers to take photos or videos at school** | |
| • First and foremost, the school is in agreement that it is very sad that we have had to take this decision and it is one that we would prefer not to have to take at all. We recognise how important it is to capture precious memories. However, the safeguarding and digital landscape is constantly changing and we have a duty of care to respond to the ever increasing and evolving safeguarding risks this poses. Our experience is telling us that we can no longer rely on just asking for photographs taken at school events to not be shared more widely as an effective measure for protecting children's images.<br>• This decision is not exclusive to Bishop Perrin Primary School. The issue was raised as a concern with Headteachers and Chairs of Governors at meetings with the local authority in the summer term, with many schools re-evaluating their policies in light of the rapidly changing AI-risks of imagery manipulation. This was after our summer Parent Forum, so there was not a chance to discuss this matter last term.<br>• This policy is one that is already implemented by many schools across the borough, with others considering updating their policies. Local schools who already have this no-photographs policy in place include St. Edmund's, St. Mary's and St. Peters, St. Stephens, St. Mary's Twickenham, St. Mary's Hampton.<br>• This decision is not about making the school a mobile-free zone, this is about protecting children's images from being taken without consent or knowledge of their parents, potentially being shared more widely and the risks associated with this. However, the outcome does support this initiative as use of mobile phone cameras will no longer be necessary at school events.<br><br>**Why is this a safeguarding issue?**<br>Photographs taken at school events may contain images of other children besides the photographer's own child. The parents / carers of these other children will not necessarily know to have given the photographer permission for their child's photograph to be taken, and may have no knowledge as to how the photographer may proceed to share the image more widely.<br><br>**Respecting children's rights:** Children should be consulted about the use of their photo or video and give consent to it being taken, used or shared.<br>Children should:<br>• Be aware that a photo or video is being taken of them<br>• Know what the image is going to be used for, and how it could be used in the future<br>• Be asked for their consent to share the photo or video<br>Not all children wish to be photographed and it is not possible to ensure their wishes are taken into consideration when parents / carers are taking photos at school events.<br>(NSPCC 2026)<br><br>**Specific safeguarding issues:**<br><br>1) **Obtaining parental permission -** it is impossible to ensure that photographs of children taken at school events are of one child only, often others will be in the | In addition to submitted suggestions, others included:<br>• An audio recording of an event<br>• Ensuring performances are at different times on different days to maximise opportunities for parents to attend<br><br>It was suggested that parents would not comply with the rule.<br><br>It was asked what would happen if parents did not comply with the rule – RM answered that they would be asked to delete the images taken and could be asked to leave the event. Furthermore, they run the risk of not being able to attend future school events.<br><br>RM thanked all parents for their comments and suggestions. SLT will consider and respond next half term. |

shot and the photographer does not always have the explicit permission from all of their parents to take that picture.

2) **Maintaining control of how an image of a child is shared** - once a digital image is taken of your child by someone else, it is impossible to control how that image will be used and how it may be shared. Different people have different expectations and standards of what is and isn't acceptable when it comes to sharing photographs, how they are shared and who with. Once shared, depending on how they are shared, images are vulnerable to being misused out of context or modified using AI, for example to create child abuse images.

   **'**A harmless picture can reveal a child's location, school, and daily habits through background details and data hidden in the image (metadata). These images are easily saved, traded in private networks, or altered using AI' (NSPCC).

3) **Best intentions** - Sometimes, the best intended actions can unwittingly cause a risk to a child's safety: e.g. a recent case of a safeguarding (not at this school), regarding children's class photos. A child had been unwell on the day of the photos, so another parent uploaded a copy of the image along with an image of the child to a potentially unregulated AI platform to create an AI- generated image of the class photo featuring the child who had been absent. Whilst this was done with best intentions, the parent had unwittingly shared the images to AI, no longer having control over how the images of all these children were used in the future and by whom.

4) **A vulnerable child being identified by an existing perpetrator of abuse** - if there is a child in school who is under a protection order and their identity is protected, if they appeared in a photo that was later shared, it could be that a perpetrator could track that child down through an image search and their location be shared putting the child at considerable risk.

5) **A child being identified for the purpose of future grooming and abuse** - when images of children are shared more widely, these risks increase.

6) **Parent / carer vulnerability** - Parents are vulnerable to safeguarding accusations if they take and share photographs of other people's children without their permission.

**Communication & Trips**

1) Parents had commented that they found the meet the teacher sessions really helpful –

Thank you for the positive feedback. Thank you for attending the meeting, we're glad you found them useful.

2) Could there be a simple reminder in the Friday newsletter for each year group about anything particular children need to bring or wear the following week please? We love encouraging responsibility, but messages can sometimes be missed or forgotten, which can affect their learning. A quick weekly reminder would really help families prepare
   Could we have a bit more feedback/communication from teachers about things they are meant to bring in - i.e the plant thing recently, and then I imagine there will be something for Harvest festival? Also I hear mixed things about snacks taking in for clubs. I don't feel there is much communication from the school other than the newsletter on a Friday.

We deliberately save all our current communication for the Friday newsletter as a one-stop-shop to find out all recent information. This was established following parent feedback a few years ago about too many emails being sent during the week and it being difficult to keep track and locate specific information. Information about things to bring should be included in the newsletter. Please do read our newsletter every week, as it contains important information.

Other information about school can be found on the school website, and by attending the 'Meet the Headteacher' and 'Meet the Teacher' sessions at the start of the year. These presentations are also available on the school website.

**Snacks**

- Children in EYFS / KS1 are provided with free fruit snacks at morning break
- Junior children can bring in a healthy snack (fresh fruit or vegetables only) to eat at morning break
- Snacks at clubs are discouraged as it delays the club start time, but if your child does need to have a snack the same rule applies, fresh fruit or vegetables only. For more information, please see our food in school policy.

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| 3) It would be good to show all the educational school trips for the whole year, rather than listing them term by term. There is nothing else to note on the Year 2 newsletter apart from the Christmas pantomime.<br>Not all trips are bookable so far in advance and we try not to advertise trips before they are booked to avoid disappointment if for unavoidable reasons the trip is unable to go ahead. Year 2 have an online workshop for this term about the Great Fire of London with Kew Archives.<br><br>4) Parent feedback suggesting more career choice trips for Y6, e.g. Sky Career Days<br>We do try and offer a wide range of trips to support the children's curriculum learning and cultural experiences. We hold career day sessions for children in Years 5 and 6, that have been received well. Inviting members of the school parent community in, to share their working experience across a range of fields. When we have previously tried to book into some Sky events they had already sold out on the days we could have attended, we will keep persevering and try to get booked. Often free events are extremely popular and oversubscribed.<br><br>5) Class rep responsibilities regarding WhatsApp<br>Re-iterated the need that anyone who has left the school needs to be removed from any year group WhatsApp groups. Floated the idea of reducing the number of admins, and clearly explaining the responsibility of maintaining the group members and other requirements outlined within the Social Media section of the Communications Policy. Admin of groups should periodically check that they know who every member of the group is. | SLT – follow up with Turing House School to see if they have any career insights or opportunities for BP School to be involved in. |
| **Homework** | |
| 1) In terms of feedback to improve, I (and kids) would benefit from some more (and clearer) information on how the planner/homework book is used, also for some info on what needs doing on Purple Mash, Mathletics etc (only got given a login but no further info on what tasks need to be done or by when).<br>2) Homework Club provision after school or lunchtime<br>3) In terms of feedback to improve, I would benefit from some more (and clearer) information on how the planner/homework book is used<br>The homework diary is used for the children to make a note of their homework for the week, and to record their weekly readings. It can be used for parents to write a note to the teacher, but please make sure your child knows to show the teacher the note. Homework diaries are only monitored once a week.<br><br>Our homework policy is currently being updated and it will be shared shortly after half term along with a helpful guide to your class's homework.<br><br>We currently have no staffing provision available to offer a homework club. | |
| **GMF** | |
| 1) Please could the school offer a reduced maintenance fund fee for families with more than one child attending the school? The cost can add up significantly for parents with more than one child at the school, so a sibling discount or reduced rate for additional children would seem fair and more manageable.<br>For example:<br>1 child: £40<br>2 children: £60 total (£30 each)<br>3 children: £75 total (£25 each)<br>Or, £40 for the first child and £20 for each additional child<br>Will pass this on to governors for consideration | SLT – pass to Governors for consideration |
| **Lunchtime** | |
| 1) Communication between lunch staff and a child's relevant class teacher needs to hugely improve. There has been cases I'm aware of where children are carrying around big emotions inside because of something that has happened at lunch/break time and they have to wait until they get home. As then can't speak to the teacher as she is teaching. Communication of any form at the end of break and lunch between lunch staff and teachers is a must and really needs to improve.<br>2) It would be helpful to explore how communication between lunchtime staff and class teachers/senior staff could be strengthened. I appreciate that | |

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| lunchtime staff are specifically designated to cover the lunch period, but sometimes incidents appear to be dealt with at the time without any further follow-up, meaning children may return to class with unresolved issues or feelings.<br>3) Perhaps a clearer process for feeding back and recording incidents would help ensure that any necessary follow-up or support is provided. It would also be beneficial to improve communication with parents where appropriate, so they are made aware of relevant incidents rather than having to rely solely on their child's account after school. This is particularly important as some children may not always feel able to share or fully explain what has happened during the school day.<br>Our playground staff are the first point of call for dealing with incidences in the playground and are trained in managing playground issues and follow our **behaviour policy** in doing so.<br>Depending on the nature of the incident, it may be that they deal with the problem in the moment and everyone moves on from the incident and the matter is considered closed. Not all incidents need to be reported to the class teacher.<br>If it is of a more serious nature or a repeated incident that requires more investigation, it will be reported to the class teacher to follow up in the afternoon, or if it is particularly serious it may be referred to SLT. If SLT have been involved, the parents can expect to receive feedback either from SLT or from the class teacher on their behalf about the incident. This will be for both parties involved.<br>All incidences at playtime are recorded on CPOMS to support identification of patterns in children's behaviour.<br>For more information about supervision at break times, please see our Supervision and Playtime Policy and Behaviour Policy. | |
| **Picker Pals - Waste Education Programme Feedback** | |
| 1) Not opposed to the litter picking as long as it doesn't displace math, reading, or languages in the curriculum.<br>2) My daughter is very interested in taking part in the Picker Pals activity. I think it would be a great opportunity to learn more about waste management and the importance of keeping our environment clean.<br>3) My son would be up for the environmental challenge, he'd love a litter pick and to learn more about the environment.<br>4) Definitely be interested in the class doing picker pals - it's a great thing for the children to learn about looking after our planet. My son and I already have a grabber and litter pick and he loves it!<br>Thank you – we will see if we can register for this for Year 2 to take part. | RM to enquire about Picker Pals |
| **Mobile-free site** | |
| 1) I presume staff will also no longer be using mobile phones to take pictures of children and strictly using the school cameras?<br>All photos taken in school are taken with a school camera, staff do not use their own phone. The only exception to this has been when the staff are on a residential trip and need to upload photographs to the closed Instagram group. Parents are asked to sign a separate consent form for this, it is entirely optional and only photos of children who parents' consent are included in this. This is covered in our Online Safety policy.<br>2) And all staff will be keeping their own mobile phones in the lockers in the staff room all day or other suitable locked away place and none in the classrooms in order to keep the school a mobile free site?<br>Yes, the staff are modelling the mobile-free policy, and their phones are put away out of sight and not used during the school day unless for a specific work-related purpose. This was communicated to the parents in the first newsletter of the term on 11th September.<br>3) I completely support limiting children's access to smartphones and social media. However, I'm finding the new rules on banning smartphones on school premises a bit confusing. If phones are handed into the office on arrival and only collected as children leave, they have no access to them during the school day. In that context, I'm struggling to understand why the type or model of phone matters.<br>No smartphones for children in school was a policy brought in September 2025, before government guidelines were published, in response to concerns from the School about the increasing number and nature of incidences we were dealing with | |

related to smartphone / device use and the impact it is having on children's behaviour, wellbeing and safeguarding and how these issues are increasingly impacting negatively on school life.
It is also in response to concerns shared from parents about how to manage their child's access to smart devices and the difficulties of navigating the peer pressure that comes with this.
It is a supportive measure for parents wishing to delay giving their children a smartphone while at primary school, and it is indicative of the concerns the School has of the impact smartphone use is having on young people. It is up to parents as to if and when their child has a smartphone, but the School does not encourage it at primary age.
Smartphones are high-value items which pose significant difficulties for schools in terms of liability and managing repercussions should a child's smartphone be lost / stolen / damaged. These risks are significantly reduced by allowing only non-smartphones in limited circumstances and that parents / pupils choose to bring them to school at their own risk.
For more information and advice, please visit the Online Safety page in the Keeping Safe section on our school website.

4) My specific concern is safety on the journey home. My child walks home across several main roads and through a park. During the summer there were a handful of racially aggravated incidents and naturally I'm concerned for my child's wellbeing. They have sadly been racially insulted in the playground. We're not allowed to use AirTags, and now, under the new policy, I need to buy both a new phone and a separate GPS tracking system. The system recommended by the school costs £25–£39 per month, plus the cost of each GPS tag, which simply isn't feasible for many families.

The mobile-phone free school is a government expectation. We understand the safety concerns, which is why we have made the exception to the rule of no mobile-phones at school for children who walk to / from school being allowed to bring a non-smartphone to school.
No smartphones in school is not a new policy. The decision about non-smartphones in school was communicated to parents in February 2025, following discussion at previous parent forums and notice was given that it would become policy in September 2025 so parents could bear this in mind when purchasing phones for their children.
The only update to our mobile phone policy this year was one made in response to new government guidelines and that is that the phones have to be handed in to the office at the start of the day, rather than kept in lockers.
When we originally made the decision about non-smartphones, we spoke with our local community police officer about it and they advised us that smartphones can make young people more vulnerable as they can be targets for theft and mugging, Also, smartphones encourage children to be absorbed in their screens, causing potential risks regarding road safety awareness.

The use of trackers and Air Tags has been communicated to parents in our Communication Policy since February 2025. This is not a new policy. The reasons for this are clearly explained in the Communication Policy along with which ones are allowed and which ones are not and why.

5) I've always been a strong supporter of the school and its policies, but recently I've started to feel that some decisions are edging into telling me how to parent my own child, rather than working in partnership. It's beginning to feel more like a one-way process than a mutually respectful relationship, and I'd really like to find a better balance.

Our policies are based on government guidelines and experience of issues in school that are impacting safeguarding, wellbeing and behavioural risks to children.
Decisions are always made with the best interest of the child at heart and with consideration to our statutory duty of care.
We worked with parents when establishing our non-smartphone policy back in autumn 2024 / spring 2025, and this was communicated well in advance of it becoming policy, on a number of occasions and in a variety of ways.
The school has to make difficult decisions regarding safeguarding. Where we can we will consult parents for feedback as we have in the case of mobile phones in school and the issue of taking photographs in school.
Parents are represented on the governing body by their elected parent governor.

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| **Lunchtime** | |
| 1) Regarding the new rules at lunch time. Making children wait at the table after finishing their food cuts into their vital play and energy release time which might leave them restless for afternoon classes. It would be great if they could be dismissed to the playground as soon as they're done eating.<br>Often these rules are multi-layered, and not as straightforward as might be assumed. This is not a new rule, but a strengthening of the rules that previously existed, extended by 5 minutes. We were finding that junior children were rushing their food to get out to the playground early and consequently not eating very much and generating a huge amount of food wastage. Additionally, the time when the younger children have the playground to themselves was being significantly impacted by the older children which wasn't fair distribution of playground access.<br>All children Y1 – 6 have 1 hour and 15 minutes for lunch break, longer than many schools. Year R have one hour, but have access to the outside throughout the day.<br>Lunchtime arrangements:<br>12:00 – 12:30 – Year R – 2 are in the hall for lunch, Year 3 – 6 have the playground<br>12:30 – 13:00 – Year 3 – 6 are in the hall for lunch, Year R – 2 have the playground<br>13:00 – YR's lunchtime finishes, Y1 – 6 share the playground<br>13:15 – Lunchtime finishes<br>This model is fair for all the children, but most importantly, gives the younger children time and space in the playground without the older (and bigger) children rushing around which can be intimidating, particularly for our youngest (and smallest) children.<br>All children in Year 1 – 6 get a total of 45 minutes of outside playground time at lunchtime, in addition to the 15 minutes playtime in the morning, plenty of time for play and movement. The school are fully aware of the importance of opportunities for physical activity, which is why we ensure at least two hours of PE for all classes every week, 10 minutes Daily Mile activity time, and the intermittent movement breaks that are instigated in classrooms throughout the day.<br>For more information about break and lunchtimes, please see our Supervision and Playtime policy on our website.<br><br>It seems there are often no veggie options (may need to be fed back to catering rather than a school change) e.g. on Friday my child will have chips and beans because they can't have the fish and there is no other option.<br>There is a veggie option every day, plus the option of a jacket potato with a variety of options. The menu is on the school website.<br>The children come in from the playground in a different order each day, so no class always last to get their lunch every day. | |
| **Black History Month** | |
| It has been positively noted the high profile of Black History month and the activities and learning associated with it that have occurred at school during October.<br>Thank you for the positive feedback and thank you to the staff who have led assemblies, organised activities and drama workshops in order to acknowledge and celebrate Black History Month. | Please see our newsletter on 23rd October for details of a parent working group to support the school's ongoing commitment to equality, inclusion and racial justice. |
| **Air Conditioning for the School Hall** | |
| If the school could have AC in the main hall as I remember summer times in the lunch hall gets very hot so the rest of the school and main hall would be a good idea as only class rooms have AC.<br>This is something we would have to discuss with the diocese as they manage our school building. We are already in a fortunate position that we have AC in our classrooms, many schools do not have any at all. | |