Crowcombe & Stogumber Primary School's Parent Forum

Minutes of Parent Forum held on Friday 19th June 2026

Present: Mrs Lewis (Headteacher), Mrs Dean (Chair of Governors), and 6 parents representing all year groups except year 5 & 6

Learning to Learn

The main focus of the meeting was the school's developing approach to **"Learning to Learn"**, which centres on helping children understand *how* they learn and developing the skills needed to become successful, independent learners. This includes supporting children to know what to do when they do not immediately know the answer or solution.

Parents were introduced to the research and thinking behind this work, which focuses on developing key learning behaviours such as resilience, reflection, relationships and metacognition. Discussion explored practical strategies that help children become more effective learners, including breaking tasks down, listening carefully, managing distractions, making links between learning and using retrieval practice to strengthen memory.

This area will form a significant part of the school's improvement work next year, with a series of half-termly learning focuses designed to embed these skills consistently across the school. The aim is to help children develop confidence, independence and a toolkit of strategies that can be applied across all areas of learning.

The forum also discussed a programme of basic skills that has been successfully used with younger children to develop key foundations for learning, including memory, perception, sequencing and visualisation skills. The school would like to extend this work more widely and sought parental views on how families could best be involved.

Parents suggested a range of approaches, including:

- Parent workshops to explain and model the strategies used in school.
- Short "bite-sized" videos demonstrating activities and techniques.
- Simple activities that can be completed at home with children.
- A similar approach to the maths workshops and weekly home tasks that were shared previously.

Parents were supportive of the school's focus on developing learning behaviours alongside academic knowledge and welcomed opportunities to better understand how these approaches can be reinforced at home. The discussion generated a number of helpful ideas that will inform plans for parent engagement next year.

Attendance

Attendance remains a key priority for both schools, and the forum discussed the importance of regular attendance in supporting children's academic progress, wellbeing and sense of belonging. Parents were reminded of the school's expectations regarding attendance, including procedures relating to mild illnesses and term-time leave requests.

The discussion focused on some of the barriers families can face in achieving excellent attendance and the support that schools can offer. Parents acknowledged the proactive approach taken by the schools in working with families, communicating concerns early and seeking solutions wherever possible to help children attend regularly and successfully.

Parents commented that the importance of attendance is communicated clearly and consistently throughout the year and recognised that the schools follow their attendance policies appropriately and fairly. Feedback from those present was that the schools do all they reasonably can to promote and support good attendance while also understanding individual family circumstances.

Parents expressed confidence in the schools' approach and noted that, should inspectors visit, they would welcome the opportunity to share their views and experiences. Parents felt strongly that the schools demonstrate a clear commitment to supporting families, removing barriers where possible and encouraging positive attendance for all pupils.

Transition

School leaders discussed arrangements for transition and the forthcoming Moving Up meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to ensure that families feel well informed and supported as children prepare for the next stage of their school journey.

The discussion highlighted the importance of sharing clear and practical information with parents, including class routines, expectations, key information about the school day and ways families can support children through periods of change. Parents valued opportunities to ask questions and gain reassurance ahead of September.

As part of the discussion, parents were invited to share any questions, concerns or suggestions that they would like to see addressed during the upcoming Moving Up meetings. This provided an opportunity to gather feedback in advance and ensure that information shared with families is as helpful and relevant as possible.

Parents also recognised the considerable work that takes place behind the scenes to ensure successful transitions. This includes information sharing between staff, opportunities for children to become familiar with new routines and environments, and carefully planned support to help children feel confident, secure and ready for the year ahead.

Feedback gathered through the Parent Forum will be used to help shape the content of the forthcoming Moving Up meetings so that key questions can be addressed for all families.

Parent Feedback and Questions

A range of topics were raised by parents. These included:

- Road safety and parking around school, including reminders regarding safe use of bus and parking areas.

Mrs Lewis welcomed the feedback and will continue to seek parent views through future Parent Forum meetings next academic year.