



Riverside Meadows
Academy



You Said, We Listened!

To start with, a huge thank you and well done to the first school council meeting of this academic year. I have read upon your minutes and this is what we are going to do:

The School Council Said.....	As Headteacher I say.....
Can we fund raise for Dream Drops Charity as they helped us with our sensory room?	Absolutely! As part of our British Values and core beliefs we should be helping others less fortunate than ourselves.
The students aren't "punished" for things like kicking doors.	As a school we don't punish people, we use a model called Cambridge Therapeutic Thinking. Punishment doesn't work and it just causes resentment and people to start hating school. There are always individualised consequences for students, but you don't always see or hear about them. We also have restorative circles where teachers discuss what has happened.
Students leaving the 1:1 room should be restrained and put back in.	Restraint is ALWAYS the last resort, and it is illegal to do it unless the pupil is at harm, causing harm or causing a criminal offence. Staff will always verbally encourage and then guide, using the Positive Touch policy, any students who are in the wrong areas. The 1:1 area is a support room, we no longer have a restraint room.
Some students try and smuggle phones in by coming in the front of school or climbing fences.	The school's, and shortly government policy will be no phones in school. We always scan and check all bags for students. Sometimes a phone does slip through, however many of you students have shown how mature you are by letting a member of staff know when you spot it, so the phone can be removed from the student. The fences have been updated with fine mesh over the Christmas break to prevent students climbing them.

<p>We should be allowed to wear non-uniform, as long as it is similar colours to the uniform. Some students are allergic and have sensory issues to fabrics. Perhaps there could be a dress down day once a week.</p>	<p>Uniform is an important part of the culture of the school as it shows that we identify as one group. The uniform rules are designed so that bullying and identification of pupils who's parents can't purchase uniform or top of the range clothing lines is stopped. The uniform policy already allows you to wear other items of clothing under your uniform to help with sensory issues and allergies.</p> <p>I like the idea of a dress down day, which I think we should do once a term for a charity.</p>
<p>Two assemblies on a Friday are causing learning time to be lost. We don't need to learn about toilets!</p>	<p>Assemblies are important as they share a message about British Values. If you took just took away the point that people use toilets, you missed the key points about tolerance, respect and how people and cultures are different across the world which is what the assembly was actually about.</p> <p>We will return back to just one assembly on a Friday.</p>
<p>Each student should have their own printed timetable, or we could have our phones with an app with it on?</p>	<p>We can't have phones in school due to safeguarding, so that one wouldn't work. We did print off timetables for students, but too many of them were ripped up or thrown about the school, so we stopped. A copy of the timetable will be placed back on the noticeboards and each teacher and TLM has one, just ask if you are unsure.</p>
<p>One to one TLMs should be split into the two halves of the day.</p>	<p>Personally I think it is a bit cruel to split the TLMs in half?</p> <p>I agree to sharing them more, and we are going to introduce it, alongside moving the 1:1 TLMs into supporting the whole class in general, alongside their student so it helps everyone out and allows you all to build relationships with trusted safe people</p>
<p>We need more staff in general, particularly male staff and staff who can physically support pupils.</p>	<p>I would love to give you more staff, but schools have so much less money to afford any resources at the moment. We have introduced the support team of Harry, Lorena, Rachel and Michaela who work with you guys out of lessons. Once we have evidence that this works we may be able to expand this team to help you all, but I do need to watch the pennies.</p>

<p>Everyone should be given a map of the school. The room numbers are confusing, they should be colour coded.</p>	<p>I can't give you all individual maps but I will look at getting some wall display maps done with "You are Here!" arrows. For around school.</p> <p>I like the idea of colour coded rooms, then we can get matching furniture for that colour as I start replacing and upgrading this year. Can you let me know what colours you would like, we need 10 names.</p>
<p>Packed lunches need searching as well as bags, people could hide objects in there.</p>	<p>We do occasionally search packed lunches, but how would you feel if someone had been handling your sandwiches? This is why we only select lunches at random and don't do everyone. Ideally we'd like to have everyone eat school lunches so we know you are eating a balanced meal of the right vitamins and minerals.</p>

I look forward to the next meeting.

Andrew