Friends of St Gregory’s Parental Survey Feedback

Following discussions at our January 2019 meeting it was decided to get some updated views of parents & children on the work of FOSG. The survey was sent via Survey Monkey to parents via Facebook & Newsletter link. The survey was open for 18 days. Completed by 63 people- approx 40% of families

**Overview of responses**

89% of respondents see FOSG as mainly fundraising. Interestingly 52% see FOSG as parent/school engagement however this is not within the official remit of current group but could be looked at if thought to be important. Many PTAs do hold this function too and Parent Kind offer support in this so may be something for further discussion. Disappointingly social events & making friends were recognised far less as aims of the group.

Parents views are mixed about the importance of FOSG to the education of the children, the majority did feel it played a part, with the weighted average being a 4/5.

Events

In terms of future events, parents overwhelmingly enjoy family events with 92% stating this as a preference. 62% like children only events and 32% would like to see adult only events. Friday night and weekend daytimes were seen as the most popular choices to attend these events. Summer Fair & Christmas fairs are by far the most popular evets with disco following closely behind. Other popular events or suggestions were Bog Eyed Jog, Gin tasting evening, Family Digital Quiz night, Music festival and a school camp out. Some alternative suggestions were to have a dad’s night, bring back the circus and film night and a 5K walk. We had a mixture of responses of where parents would like to see the events held.

Communication

The overwhelming majority prefer to find out about events via facebook & school newsletter 78%&83% respectively), with class dojo in 3rd place with just 29%.

The majority of people feel we communicate well with 74% rating communication as 4 or 5 out of 5. Some comments that did arise though was about how we could communicate better about totals raised and how this money Is spent.

Spending

There was a fairly even spread of how parents would like to see the money spent across all areas suggested, with extra curricular activities and subsidised school trips being at the top of the list with 67% each.

We received many many positive comments about the work of FOSG some of which included

* Good communication,
* All events well organised
* I think you do an amazing job, keep up the good work,
* best summer fair in years,
* a good variety of events,
* children’s best interests at heart.

Areas for improvement

* Try to engage more with parents and empower them to want to help
* Would prefer cash donation than sending a bottle
* Advise on what events make and where money is spent
* Too many communication streams
* Keep costs down

**FOSG response to questionnaire**

We are very pleased to have so much input on this survey. It overall confirms that what we try to do works for the majority of the time but gives us some areas to aim to improve on. We are always on the look out for new recruits or just volunteers to help pre-events or at events. Parents, families & friends are welcome to attend any meetings to share ideas and thoughts. We try to be open and welcoming to anyone who wants to get involved. We are keen to investigate further how people would like us to engage more and what the barriers are to people helping/joining the team after all many hands make light work and the more of us that there are the easier it will be to make changes for the better.

In terms of events the survey has shown us that we are right to provide a mixture of events from family events to children’s only events & adult only events. We know not everything will suit everybody all of the time but if we can attract most people most of the time this will work for our school. We don’t expect everyone to attend or support everything we do but by putting on a variety of events and initiatives we aim to find something for everyone throughout the year.

As a group we try to communicate as much as possible with families but as there are only a small number of us with work and family commitments sometimes time to do this comprehensively & timely is difficult and while we aim for a termly newsletter this has not always been possible.

Fundraising is one of the main aims of FOSG is fundraising but also friendship and developing the school community. Many of events are focussed towards raising money for school and we factor this into our prices. Ultimately, we try to find a way to provide value for money fun events and at the same time to raise money for our children. It is noted that some feel our Bingo events are too costly and although we follow a model used widely across Chorley & PTA’s UK wide we will look at how we can improve on this before any future BINGO nights.

Donations are a massive part of our fundraising and we appreciate every single one sent in. Overall, donations bring in the most revenue for our events as they minimise our outgoings and allow us to maximise funds for school. As a group we feel cash donations are not thought to be as appropriate unless there is a very specifc initiative such as our sports fest prize stall last year. (this does not include school organised charity days such as CAFOD)

In response to one specific comment, it is coincidence that the Bog Eyed Jog falls the day before Holy Communion, however the BEJ is set as a fun way to end year 6 SATS and provide a release from the focus of the week for the whole school. As the event is held within the normal school day we didn’t feel this would have any impact on the First Holy Communion.

Anyone wishing to see the full data from the survey can request via email fosg@st-gregorys-pri.sch.lancs.uk. This email is available at all times for feedback, comments & suggestions.

Recommendations

Continue to provide a variety of events and initiatives throughout the school year. Continue with some favourites and introduce some new ones.

Continue to communicate with parents via the main routes of School Newsletter and our facebook page. We will aim to update other communications streams as much as possible when time allows but know that these are less important to parents. ? Have a dedicated FOSG Slot on the weekly Newsletter.

Aim to provide timely updates on monies raised at events (dependant on finance restrictions)

Develop the role of class reps to help engage parents more and use as a communication stream to back up the committee.

As a group review our mission statement & aims and ensure we are working towards these at all times.

Investigate and discuss the possibility of a parental engagement group

Have a comments & suggestions box located in the main reception to allow for continuous feedback, ideas and communication.

Publish all meetings minutes on FOSG website for open viewing once approved (normally the month following the meeting)

Consider FOSG Information sessions where people can come and see what we’re all about, how to get involved and find out how we contribute to school.

Consider spending suggestions bearing in mind plans have already been set for the year at the AGM, some of these may need to be carried forward to 2019/20