

St Gilbert's RC Primary School

Cambell Road
Winton
Eccles
MANCHESTER
M30 8LZ

Head of School: Miss J Tumelty
Executive Head: Mrs J Forshaw



☎ 0161-789-5035
☎ 0161-921-1671
🌐 www.stgilbertsrc.co.uk
✉ stgilberts.rcprimaryschool@salford.gov.uk

Dear Parents,

Parent Forum

In our endeavour to continue to build positive working relationships between home and school, we are setting up a Parent Forum. Parent Forums are a proven way of sharing a Parent Voice in a cohesive manner and build greater understanding from all groups in the school when making decisions and changes to school life.

What is a Parents Forum?

Essentially, it is a group of parents who meet with members of Senior Management, Staff and Governors to discuss initiatives, ideas, concerns and strategies that are current or upcoming in the life of the School with a view to supporting the continual development of the school. The nature of items discussed will typically be those that affect both home and school and where a Parent's point of view would help us in moving towards decisions about issues such as: homework, uniform, school events etc.

What will I have to do?

- Build good relationships and communicate with other parents to get their ideas and feedback
- Represent the viewpoints of different parents you have come into contact with
- Attend a meeting once per term
- Share information around different aspects of school life with people who could not attend.
- Take ideas and suggestions of topics that may be discussed by the forum.

This is not all that the group has to do, it can develop into more in time, however the key is to ensure a dialogue between the school and the parents.

What is the forum not?

- A final decision making body – this forum is a chance for School Leaders to discuss ideas and gain information so that final decisions have been considered from different points of view and possible concerns have been addressed.
- A complaints board – the Parents Forum is not a place to air personal issues and complaints about issues affecting a single child or incident as these should be dealt with via the appropriate channels.
- A way to implement a personal agenda – as the aim is in continual positive development for the good of the school, parents are asked to be respectful and representative of all differing opinions. This may sometimes mean putting aside one's own point of view and taking a more neutral stance to ensure fair representation.

P.T.O.



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When and where will the group meet?

At the moment, we propose that the group will meet once per term in school. The date and time will be agreed at the meeting before so that adequate child care can be arranged etc. After this first year, we will be better able to understand the need of the forum and adapt it as appropriate. In the first instance, we will also aim to meet in September to introduce ourselves and go through some setting up procedures so that the first full meeting can be more productive.

How many parents can attend the forum?

Ideally, we would like one parent to represent each year group in school. This would mean 9 parents can be in attendance at any time.

How do I join?

In the first instance, we ask you to email school using: stgilberts.rcprimaryschool@salford.gov.uk by noon on **Friday 23rd September** expressing your interest in being a member of the forum. In the email please include your name, the name and class of your child/children and contact details. We will do a draw in the playground at 3:10pm on Friday 23rd September for the classes where more than one person has nominated themselves.

If you have any further questions about the Parents Forum please do not hesitate to contact school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. V. Neville
Assistant Head

