



Key Driver 2: *Effective two-way communication* *Giving parents a voice at a strategic level*

Trinity Academy, like many schools, included parents on the governing body, but this was not truly representative. Only 48 parents participated Ofsted's 'Parent View' in 2017-18, although this has risen in later years. It was clear to the School Leadership Team that parents needed an alternative way to share their views and be part of the solution.

What did they do?

Trinity took part in Parentkind's 'Whole School Approach' training and as a result decided to set up a Parent Council.

- This idea was shared with parents in a survey, which 243 parents replied to
- Parents that had previously expressed interest at being part of a Parent Council were contacted, along with volunteers being asked for. Advertising was also done around the school

What was the result?

- The first Parent Council meeting was held in December 2019, where there were representatives from each year group attending.
- The Chair and Secretary were appointed (it was agreed that the Chair would be the Parent Governor who would then be able to feed back to the governing body)

What difficulties have there been?

- Unfortunately, there was a change to the Parent Governor's circumstances and she was no longer able to fulfil these roles. The Parent Council had to wait for the appointment of another person before holding their next meeting, which could have had a negative effect, stalling the momentum that was gathering – fortunately, a member of the Parent Council was approached and agreed to taking on both roles, so the wait wasn't too long.
- Covid 19 – Parent Council meetings have been postponed until the Social Distancing rules are lifted as many of Trinity's parents do not have access to technology for remote meetings.

Lessons learnt – Recommendations for other schools:

- The first meeting gives all members an opportunity to give their views on the types of topics they would like to cover, however following this it is important that the Chair sets an agenda that caters for the school's needs and the members understand their roles clearly



@PTAExpertbyParentkind



@Parentkind



info@parentkind.org.uk



@Parentkind.org.uk



parentkind.org.uk



0300 123 5460