

## ROCKMOUNT PCF MEETING – 8 May 2026

Attendees (those present highlighted):

Staff / Guests	Helen Carvall (Head), Amber Pearless (Deputy Head), Connor Skillen		
Nursery Silver	Lee Fieldwick, Ali Seal		
Reception Jade	Diana Carberry, Sainab Jamal	Reception Diamond	Moveta Douglas, Christos Pistas
Year 1 Garnet	Aarti Gandesha, Sophie Matthews	Year 1 Emerald	Carolina Valsecchi, Alex Mellor
Year 2 Onyx	Rachele Rapisardi, Katie Exton	Year 2 Zircon	Kate Cogan, Ros Croker-Ahmed
Year 3 Topaz	Olivia Jackson (Parent Governor), Rob Phillips	Year 3 Opal	Clare Galloway (RFC), Caroline Parker-Sparks
Year 4 Crystal	Jessica Morris (Chair), Jo Alder	Year 4 Quartz	Lesley Baer-Took (Chair), Chris Rowe
Year 5 Sapphire	Sally Preston	Year 5 Moonstone	Eloise Rowley, Helen Dodd (RFC)
Year 6 Pearl	Dionne King	Year 6 Coral	

### Review previous actions

**Neurodiversity - Add link to ND under the parent tab on the website** - Has this link been added on the parent tab? Link has been put in lots of places. Rob Phillips will audit and recommend streamlining opps on the website

**Catering – Suggestion to invite a parent from each class to lunch / do a tasting session with parents; pupil voice capture with Anna for after school meals** - HC – lots on this half term (yr 6 SATS), some teachers off sick. Action this in next half term

**WhatsApp - School to send out reminder to parents/carers that whatsapp groups are not facilitated by, maintained or affiliated with the school; Potential action: PCF draft some guidance on this to be shared across each of our respective groups?** - Done. 2. **Helen Dodd will lead on creating this guidance**

Jess - PCF reps could be instrumental in making sure WhatsApp groups remain focused on the right things and are generally positive

## Topic 1: DFE Reception RISE Network Program - Connor and Amber

- Webpage: <https://www.rockmountprimaryschool.co.uk/page/?title=RISE+Reception+Networks&pid=189>
- About: Rockmount was designated by the Department for Education as a Reception Network Lead School, as part of a national programme to strengthen Reception provision across England.
- Update: This is a 2-year pilot programme. Onboarding meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> has happened. Met Bridget Phillipson. One of 5 lead schools in London.
- As this is an unfunded program DFE have given a rough structure. As a lead school they will do outreach across many SE London Boroughs to grow the network, sharing resources and best practice. 1<sup>st</sup> online network meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> May to introduce the programme to other schools (8 signed up already), other schools have been identified and targeted. Site visits (1 per term).
- No funding, but guidance and support. If they do more than remit, they may be able to charge for future consultancy work in other schools.
- HC – this is a massive recognition of the work that Rockmount has done so far and is the only standalone school in the programme.
- Clarified that this should not have any significant impact on teachers contact time with kids.
- HD - What can parents do to support? At the moment this remains to be seen.
  - HC – Action – look into opportunity to create a questionnaire for incoming reception parents to understand a baseline for future assessment?

## Topic 2: Oracy update on Oracy Cambridge Project and National Gallery Project - Viv, Becca and Helen

- Webpage: <https://www.rockmountprimaryschool.co.uk/page/?title=Oracy&pid=187>
- About: Rockmount is part of a pilot project with Oracy Cambridge, collaborating with other Croydon schools. Over the next 18 months, this partnership will enable Rockmount to further develop and embed a whole-school approach to oracy, guided by leading experts
- Working toward accreditation (intense work in the Spring term), while embedding Oracy into everyday practice. Looking at Participation systems (hands-up), active listening, focus on partner talk

- DC – “Dialogue moves” are being implemented, hand signals to help engage in debate in different ways (build / challenge / agree) - includes sentence stems e.g. “building on what xx said...”
- Whole school approach, includes things like:
  - Key Stage 2 “Oracy assemblies” where there is small group discuss and feedback time,
  - Little Wandle – focus on creating a language rich environment in nursery
  - Yr 6 “Exploratory talk” – reaching agreement and conclusion. Looking at how lesson planning can drive better practice. Generating data driven report for Oracy Cambs. Working on 2<sup>nd</sup> lesson study focusing on “Inclusion” – similar report to be produced. These processes have been v. valuable
- Engaging ALL teachers – ensuring consistency. Implemented listening logs – teacher focuses on 1-2 kids and focus on their communications in school (4 teachers did this on 15 children last term. All teachers to focus on 3 children this term) to give snapshot of trends and class needs. BC – “Really tuning in on how kids talk is illuminating”.
- Accreditation – hosting OC to observe for 1 day in Summer Term. BC - “Confident we are on-track”
- Rockmount have been invited to speak at a conference by Voice21 so really are leading the way on this and seen as experts
- HC - Rockmount doing 2 years work in 1 year to be a local leader on Oracy (more chargeable consultancy opps in the pipeline).
- Rockmount can do more on the PR side to grow the reputation of the School outside of the existing school community. Croydon Ed dept will push the PR angle in the press once we know which schools gain accreditation.
  - HC - Could each initiative be promoted on a table at the Summer Fair? ACTION (HD) – RFC to add this to the summer fair plan?
  - BC – Oracy webinars will be offered to parents this term
- Parent feedback – it’s noticeable that some of this is making it’s way home.
  - HC – can we collect testimonials to add value to the assessment?
  - Action: BC to create a google feedback form for reps to share with parents to collect this info.

### **Topic 3: Update about Activity Clubs meeting with Ana - Chris and Diana (to include a summary point for FAQs) - Chris and Diana**

- Background: Regularly asked to bring up the topic of activity clubs – booking process and availability, so Chris and Diana met with Ana to discuss. Feedback which was shared:
- **Is there a better way than “Glastonbury style”?**
  - Changes have been made to the booking process over time - Ana was a Rockmount parent before she was ASC leader, so understands the frustration
  - All year groups now launched at the same time, which was deemed more fair
- **Could it go live at a different time?**
  - Ana’s time is limited and she needs to be available when the clubs go live.
- **Could more clubs be added?**
  - Afterschool club capacity has been increased (+32 places esp early years).
  - An additional six different clubs were added during the last year: 2 x cookery clubs, gardening club, woodwork club, coding club and clay club.
  - 3 classrooms are in use after school for booster clubs, plus staff do need classrooms to work in after children go home. Remodelling classrooms (e.g. moving tables around to accommodate drama club) is a problem.
- **What are the costs involved? Would increased prices cover more staffing?.**
  - This isn’t really relevant because it’s the physical capacity within the school that is the key issue – both halls need to be available for sports clubs if the weather is poor

- **Can group sizes increase?**
  - Staff to child ratio is a problem, covering toilet breaks etc. More adults = more money
- **Could external providers be drafted in?.**
  - There are no shortage of these, Ana is regularly approached (e.g. coding and dance) but space is the issue. There is the possibility of adding +1 language club, which Ana will explore
  - Ana recognises that communicating afterschool club lunch mailings is challenging. Mail-out provision has attendant costs (and in most cases only 1 nominated parent or carer can receive mailings)

In short, Diana and I explored a number of factors that might improve provision, but feel that Ana is doing a great job given the limited resources that she has available. The school will continue to explore ways to improve provision / fairness etc. and will be researching new systems to support payment and booking.

- HC – add something to the FAQs to make the system clear to new joining parents
- HC – does any info go out to parents in their “transition package”? HC will review
- CR to append Ana meeting notes to these meeting minutes – see appendix.

#### **Topic 4: Update from Misogyny-Free Schools (MFS)**

- JM – thanks for school’s support.
- There is a Whatsapp group and website for this project. Please share widely within and outside the school community: <https://www.misogyny-free-schools.uk/>
- 2 x Yr5 sessions delivered (with DR and Renee). Interactive sessions exploring gender stereotypes. Group discussions based around scenarios to identify what happened, what they think and what they could do about it.
  - Synergy with Oracy project evident.
  - Linking back to Rockmount School values – respect, help etc.
  - Actions for next steps generated by kids
- DR – Croydon education adding some support from other initiatives inc. “Everyone’s invited” (offering YR 6 sessions, staff training, parent webinar next year)
- HC – these initiatives compliment the Kapow PSHE curriculum.
- More work will be done next year across the school to address stereotypes (through stories etc.).
- Discussed books and MFS creating a book list – possible to ask parents (and Rachel Fox from local authority) for recommendations
- Also interested to capture parents evidence of stereotypes impacting kids from young age to demonstrate need / progress.

- HC – is there scope for a (pilot) parent workshop?
  - JM to check if “Everyone’s invited” could support here.
- HD – positive feedback already from parents in Yr 5

### **Topic 5: AOB**

- Ice cream van – parents have raised concerns about the ice cream van idling in the school zone (pollution), how it may put unnecessary pressure on parents to purchase and that it is not in line with the Healthy Schools Scheme
  - HC – not a lot can be done, apart from individual parents can complain to the council
- RFC – great support, bingo night well-attended and recognition of new energy and enthusiasm from HC

### **Next meeting: June 26**

Agreed to keep the agenda short (45 mins) and lend extra time to support the RFC in advance of the Summer Fair?