Parent Council Annual Report 2018/19

On behalf of the Parent Council, I would like to thank Mrs Hyslop and all the staff at Davenham Primary School for their continued hard work and commitment to furthering parent engagement. As Chair of the Council, I would also like to thank all the Parent Council representatives who have given their time and support over the last 12 months. The success of the Council is dependant on the combined efforts of both staff and parent volunteers; the last year being no exception.

The Council met half termly and the meetings were always well attended by the existing members. The Council has, however, struggled to attract new representatives from each class, which has resulted in the council evolving to some extent. A body of representatives now exists and parents/carers are encouraged to contact any representative, irrespective of their link class or teacher. This has worked well over the last year and will continue, however, it would be beneficial to the Council to have a turnover of representatives to bring diversity and new ideas.

Over the last academic year, the Council has operated successfully providing an effective pathway of communication. Mrs Hyslop has, wherever possible, promptly addressed any concerns, taken ideas forward and put in place changes, following constructive suggestions or feedback.

The Council has raised day-to-day queries, such as hydration and toilet breaks, which the weekly newsletter has proved an effective means of addressing and communicating to parents/carers. The newsletter has also communicated any Council led changes, such as, setting out the cost of all scheduled trips and visits to allow parents to plan ahead. Where queries could not directly be resolved, such as requests for teachers to apply suncream, Mrs Hyslop has instead prompted staff to raise awareness with the children; class discussions and activities were held focussing on the sun and why applying suncream was so important.

The Council has also provided a source of feedback for school led events and much praise has been given to the staff, for example, for the fantastic Year 6 Lion King Performance and the jam packed whole school Sports Week. The Council is also proactive in suggesting ideas to compliment the school. For example, in March this year, a parent via the Council suggested that school consider taking part in the Usbourne Books Sponsored Read. The Sponsored Read was a great success and not only did it promote additional reading for children in their own time, but school also received £2,300 from Usbourne books to spend on new books for the school library.

During the previous academic year, it was routinely raised that parents would like to see more sporting opportunities and after-school activities. Over the last academic year, a Programme of after school events, including many sports, has been in place, offering children the opportunity to try many new activities. The school also used their Sports funding to secure the provision of Mrs Oakes as a specialist sports teacher, which has enhanced the level of PE within school and provided the opportunity to up-skill staff. School has recently been awarded the GOLD School Games Mark for the first time, which is testament to the level of effort and dedication staff have put into this area over the last 12 months. It also demonstrates that parent feedback is listened to and valuable in supporting school.

The parent representatives recognise that the Council is a valuable channel of school-parent communication and we look forward to continuing to assist school in creating the best possible learning environment for our children.