

Saint Augustine's R C High School
Minutes of Learning Support Parent Support Group Meeting
Tuesday 18th October 2016

1. Kay Jameson (SENCO) welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were sent from Robert Szlaz (Parent Chair of the Parent Support Group).
2. **Pupil Support and Wellbeing at St Augustine's** - presentation by Mrs Sarah Duckworth, Pupil Support and Wellbeing Coordinator. Sarah outlined the types of Pastoral intervention and support available to pupils in school.
3. **Rainbows Support** – Mrs Rebecca Burton, Rainbows Co-ordinator and Lead Teacher in R.E. spoke about the provision of bereavement support in school. Rainbows nurtures emotional healing among children who are grieving a loss through death, divorce, separation or any other painful transition in their lives. It provides a safe setting in school in which pupils can talk through their feelings with their peers who are experiencing similar situations. They are helped to articulate their feelings by a trained facilitator and follow a structured 12-14 week programme to assist them through their grief or loss. Each programme culminates in a 'Celebrate Me Session' – a celebration and conclusion of the programme; going forward.
4. **IDL Links** – Mrs Karen Rogers, Lead Teacher in Learning Support, discussed the benefits of pupils accessing an online dyslexia intervention called IDL Cloud. IDL uses sight, sound, touch, and voice to improve reading and spelling. Links are made between the visual, auditory and tactile pathways. IDL automatically generates a starting point for pupils based on their individual reading and spelling ability. The program can also meet individual visual needs – pupils can choose their own page background and text colours to make tracking and place finding easier, helping to combat visual stress. The cloud is used to store pupil progress so they can work from any location - picking up where they left off. Schools who currently use IDL have reported that pupils' reading and spelling ages increase on average by around 10 months after just 26 hours of use. They have also noticed improved confidence and self-esteem, which has transferred into other areas of school life. A link to IDL Cloud can be found on the St Augustine's website www.sarchs.com/index.php/learning-support
5. **Keyboard Skills** with Kay Jameson, SENCO and Karen Rogers - Keyboard proficiency as well as IDL support, free to use on the BBC Bitesize Dance Mat Typing website.
6. **Lego Club** – Jane Hogan, Specialist Teacher – Learning Support, spoke about the advantages and creativity the Lego club offers to pupils as an intervention to support social skills and fine motor skills.
7. **Maths Buddies** with Karen Rogers – This is an intervention where Year 10 Maths ambassadors support Year 7 pupils to improve numeracy skills.
8. **Paired Reading** – Kay Jameson spoke about the Paired Reading Scheme that runs during the Autumn term, to help pupils improve their reading confidence, accuracy, fluency and comprehension. Selected older pupils are trained so that they can pair with a Year 7 pupil to guide them and listen to them read. Research shows that regular reading with a partner using paired reading techniques can rapidly improve reading ability. It is also advantageous when parent/carers listen to their child read each evening for approximately 10 minutes; they could read a book from home, the school library or one from the scheme.
9. **Future Meetings** – our next meeting is on the **Wednesday 8th March at 7.00pm** and will take the form of a Careers Evening for pupils and their families in Years 9, 10 and 11.
10. **AOB:**
 - a. Café Autisan, Whalley - Café Autisan provides an innovative environment for people on the autism spectrum to expand their skills and build self-esteem and confidence. Developed as part of a wider enterprise initiative, the café, gift shop and art gallery allow each person they support to achieve practical workplace experience e.g. they support several autistic people to work in the café, preparing and selling coffee, afternoon tea, cakes and sandwiches. Each person they support has the opportunity to complete an NVQ in catering and hospitality and achieve other recognised work-based qualifications including ASDAN. Gaining essential interview experience and developing their skill base, everyone they work with will learn transferable skills that will help contribute to brighter employment prospects. Any proceeds generated through the café are reinvested into providing further opportunities for the people they support.