

Ever wish you knew more about what's going on?

Being a member of the Friends of Oxford Spires Academy (FOSA) helps you stay informed, you are able to feedback to the school, help shape new initiatives and ask questions and share information. Join us by [signing up to our mailing list](#).

I thought you just served coffee at events?

No, although that is an important part of what we do as anyone dying for a cuppa after rushing to an event will tell you. It also raises funds so we can buy extras for the school like outdoor table tennis tables (three now bought!) but it is only one aspect. Our meetings and mailing list are an active channel for discussion and communication between parents and the school.

What do you discuss?

Who should I contact about an issue? Why were there so many tests in one week? What can I do to persuade my child to revise? When should I come to a parents evening? Are there any more lockers? How do you choose options? Where's the best place to buy cheap football boots? Should there be a gender neutral uniform? What's happening with catering? Can the payment deadlines for trips be advertised more in advance? We'll cover anything that is relevant to you or the school!

Who attends meetings?

Parents, relatives, friends of the school. Occasionally children if people have childcare issues. All our meetings are attended by at least one school representative. Often Miss Blake will join us as well and finds the open and honest feedback the group gives to be invaluable. She will also share ideas and plans that are still in development to get early feedback and help steer their implementation.

Can FOSA improve or change what the school does?

Yes. For example, our last meeting focused on the December parent consultation event. We covered how we had found it as parents, gathered top tips to share, fed back suggestions for improvements and what we appreciated about the evening. Miss Blake answered queries and told us of some improvements already planned and also fed back on how the teachers had found the evening and their suggestions too.

We also had a preview of the new menus last September to discuss things like the variety of food and availability of halal, vegetarian, grab & go and healthy items.

Some of the ideas are still just that, ideas, and may or may not happen. FOSA can make sure that parent views are considered whatever the final outcome. The Chair of Governors also attends some meetings, giving another point of view and avenue for feedback and consultation.

But I can't get to the meetings!

We know that not everyone can make it to a meeting for all kinds of reasons. Emails are sent out to the mailing list before hand with reminders and asking for comments and questions which are presented at the meeting (anonymised). Notes are taken at all meetings and circulated to the mailing list a few days later so everyone knows what's happening.

Messages can also be passed on to school at any time on your behalf if you have an issue or question. All notes and emails are anonymised – we would never use names.

Sounds good, I want to join in

Email osafriends@gmail.com and you'll be added to the mailing list. It's the same email address for all questions, comments, ideas, etc.

Meetings are advertised on the school website and all are welcome but being on the mailing list is the only way to receive minutes of meetings.