



Gelston Primary Parents for Gelston

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Date: **20/01/2026**

1. Welcome & Apologies

Present: **Kim, Kay, Jess, Abbie and Ian**

- Apologies: **Kara**

2. Chair Report

2.1 Rights Respecting School Group/Playground Signage

The group revisited the proposal to invest in new playground signage. While this had been discussed at the previous meeting, members noted the significant cost and questioned the potential impact, particularly as pupils are currently playing well and have a wide range of activities available. Further options for additional playground equipment and enhanced play opportunities are also being explored.

Mrs Glover reported that “worry boxes” have now been introduced in both classrooms and in the corridor for pupils to use.

2.2 PVG Update

Those holding current PVG certification are **Kay, Ian, Abbie, Jess, Rachel, Kara and Ashleigh**. PVGs remain valid for five years for individuals associated with Gelston Primary. Members who leave the school community, such as Abbie in the near future, will be removed from the register accordingly.

Kay outlined the PVG process and confirmed that additional support with fundraising will still be required. However, not all fundraising activities will require volunteers to have PVG clearance.



2.3. Licensing Renewal

Kay confirmed the gambling license that is required for future fundraising is £20 and requires renewal. She will need to use her details and would like to use the school's address. Kay to investigate this but all group in agreement about renewal.

3. Treasurer Report

Balance: **£2, 168.02**

It was noted that some people may still need to pay for their Gelston tote bags and that we would need to sell 50% to break even on this.

Kay to check with Vanessa Morris as to how to get bank charges repaid

4 Head Teacher Report

4.1 General Update

Gelston has received an unexpected allocation of Additional Support for Learning (ASL) funding totalling **£2,154**. To date, **£780** has been spent on iPad keyboard adaptors and on the Nessy spelling programme, which is designed to support pupils with dyslexia but is now being used across the whole school.

Further options for the remaining funding were discussed. Mrs Glover emphasised the need to utilise the allocation promptly to avoid it being withdrawn. Although the school had hoped the funding to bring a Learning Support Assistant in for one day per week, there are currently no suitably trained individuals available or willing to travel to Gelston for this role.

It has been confirmed by the Community Assets Team at Dumfries and Galloway Council that the playpark located within the school grounds has been condemned. As the equipment is now considered unsafe, Mrs Glover will engage with the team to arrange its removal. She will also explore potential options for alternative playground equipment to enhance play opportunities for pupils.

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4.2 School Roll

Mrs Glover reported, with regret, that following the summer term the school roll is expected to fall to **19 pupils**, as eight Primary 7 pupils will move on and no Primary 1 entrants are currently anticipated. In line with Council guidelines and forthcoming budget constraints, this reduction will likely require the school to move to a **single composite P1–7 class**.

This class would be taught by **Miss Reid and Mrs Lumsden**, ensuring a Principal Teacher is present on site at all times. **Miss Scott** would therefore need to be redeployed, although her new placement may not be confirmed until the summer.

The Parent Council expressed collective concern and sadness about the potential impact on the school community. **Kay will contact the Small Schools Alliance** as soon as possible to seek advice and support regarding next steps.

There was lengthy discussion around how best to address this in terms of promotion, including a public face book page and further open days to attract p1 parents of pupils that might not know much about the school. Only 1 child from Auchencairn catchment attended the open day held last year.

5. Fundraising Ideas

Disappointment was noted regarding the smaller amount raised by Gelston Primary compared with Crossmichael Primary at the Partnership Concert. The Council agreed that lessons have been learned and that joint fundraising approaches should be considered for future large events. It was proposed that a Partnership Parent Council meeting be arranged to support coordinated planning and maximise fundraising outcomes.

In the short term, the group will decide whether to proceed with a **Haggis Drive** in the coming weeks or to allow more preparation time and instead organise an **Easter Soup and Sweet** or **Afternoon Tea** event, potentially including a raffle. A colour run, recently popular with other schools as fundraisers would also be considered.



6. AOB (Any Other Business)

9. Date of Next Meeting

TBC