



## Lochnorris Primary School Parent Council (Meeting No.1)

Tuesday 1 December 2020 – 7pm

**Present:** C Donnelly, S Hill, L Wright, K Cairns, R Cowan, G O’Kane, J D’Agostino, J Quinn, D Blinkhorn, L Thomas, JA Spreadbury, A Hill, R Stevenson, K Torbet, C O’Driscoll (HT) J Shaw (DHT), L McPhail (DHT)

### **Welcome & Meeting Etiquette**

Good attendance was noted by the host, C Donnelly, who explained the use of the functions of the meeting platform and asked people to remain on mute when they weren’t speaking but have the cameras on if possible.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Gillian O’Kane, Jo Quinn, Russell Cowan, Robert Stevenson, Alan Hill and Michelle Hutchinson.

### **Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes were circulated in advance of the meeting and noted as accurate by Karen Cairns and confirmed by Joanne Spreadbury

### **Matters Arising/Action Plan**

#### **Staffing – 2 vacancies**

C O’D stated that there are two vacancies, 1 permanent and 1 temporary. Interviews are scheduled with likely starts being after Christmas, vacancies are to support non-contact time. C O’D confirmed that P5/6 were due to return to school tomorrow following self-isolation but the school would remain absent, carrying one teacher absence for P5/6.

#### **Parents Meetings**

C O’D confirmed that invitations for parents to arrange meetings (over the phone due to COVID) were communicated via the blog and this process seems to have worked well. C O’D confirmed that the teachers are scheduling these themselves to suit their own circumstances. Phone calls start next week. It was noted that the blog is new to the previous Barshare parents therefore the school plans to increase awareness of this communication method.



### **Breakfast Club**

C O'D confirmed a lot of interest has been noted for this opportunity particularly to support childcare. She advised that EAC normally use such clubs for children in receipt of free school meals however parents of Lochnorris are looking for childcare support. C O'D advised that this is not something the school can run alone and initial talks have commenced with YIP world to establish if they can support but as yet no commitments have been made. C O'D to provide ongoing update but confirmed that there would be no exclusions and the opportunity would be open to all for a fee. A request to see the survey responses was made.

### **COVID Contingency Planning**

C O'D confirmed that the government stance remains such that schools should remain open however contingency plans remain being worked on behind the scenes. She stated that the school is in a solid position for home learning already as teachers are well skilled on MS Teams and the school has demonstrated this via ongoing learning for the class currently isolating.

### **Constitution**

CD updated and circulated the constitution document. Discussion was had on whether there was a need to stipulate within the constitution that SLC Parents were part of this Parent Council. It was agreed that the SLC is part of Lochnorris with children attending both facilities as needed for their individual learning therefore it is recognised that this Parent Council represents both mainstream and SLC parents. It was noted that there are parents in attendance with children utilising both facilities. C O'D stated that Barshare and the SLC were joined as one council previously which worked well but this was managed under one Head Teacher. She is happy to involve the Head of the SLC.

It was proposed that the council would meet every 6 weeks. The document was agreed with a review date of August 2021, in advance of the next AGM.



## Health and Safety

### Drop off and pick up arrangements

C O'D acknowledged that there were teething problems on day one but was confident that these are now rectified. She felt an unprecedented numbers of parents turned up on day one however multiple parent waiting zones are now in play which has helped. She felt the children are more comfortable with the environment and confirmed staff will continue to be present at all drop off/pick up times to facilitate as required. S Hill highlighted that in the lead up to day one there was feedback provided to the school that things weren't planned properly and he expressed parent frustration that these opinions weren't listened too.

C O'D responded that the school didn't anticipate volume of parent attendance however acknowledged the issue and reiterated that she is in the playground every day and welcomes discussions with parents directly.

### Playground and Non-staggering of breaks

It was noted that the playground is small and discussion was had around why all pupils have the same break times. C O'D spoke about some logistical and staffing issues as well as the need to ensure that the children remain in their bubbles. She felt that the children are getting used to the parameters and routines but confirmed that this remains under constant review.

CD felt the main issue was Covid safety and a lack of opportunity for the children to burn off energy and exercise, pointing out that Greenmill was split break times which worked well.

Discussion was had around whether there was an opportunity to use the other areas such as the AstroTurf but C O'D felt there were too many issues with this, namely an access road, no toilet facilities and opportunities for cross bubble playing.

## PE

Discussion was had around children being outside in torrential rain, C O'D confirmed that outdoor activities have now stopped if it's raining. Logistical arrangements for access to a specialist PE Teacher were discussed with it confirmed that Lochnorris staff take the children along to the required area and RBA staff bring them back. It was noted that there are only 2 changing rooms. Although the children are currently not getting changed for PE, they need access to the changing



rooms to store their belongings on occasion. There is some cross learning occurring among the teacher population as a result of this arrangement which will benefit the pupils. The Covid restrictions are making this situation difficult but it was noted that C O'D is keen to maximise PE when it's permissible.

### **Teaching and Learning**

#### **Community**

LMcP gave an update on this topic outlining that the school are keen to make their presence known in the community and some Christmas activities are planned to support local care homes and food banks. A number of ideas were tabled for consideration into 2021 and beyond.

#### **Social Media and Logo**

It was agreed that communication should be via the school blog to focus this in one area however a re-communication of the parent council email address for direct communication is needed.

#### **Focus areas for Parent Council**

A number of focus areas were discussed to make best use of the resource including use of PEF funding, school improvement plan participation, transition plans across the three sections and ensuring Hillside integration. CO'D noted that a School Profile had now been compiled with information on pupil attainment, absence and general pupil demographics. It was agreed that this would be used as a focus for a future meeting. It was noted that the Parent Council should support a review of school policies, handbooks etc. A workshop was also proposed regarding school culture. C O'D confirmed it is also her intention to obtain relevant accreditations e.g. dyslexia friendly school in due course.

#### **Head Teacher Update**

C O'D confirmed that the school are trying to be very responsive to the current situation regarding Covid and getting to know the pupils and new teachers as well as settling into the new environment. This has meant that to date focus has been operational. She continued to say that the teachers are having to get to know parents over the phone which is far from ideal. Plans are underway for



January concerning a focus on nurture and staff are undertaking training on this and 2 principle teachers are supporting literacy and numeracy.

### **AOCB**

CD confirmed that Respect Me Training and parent led anti-bullying training will be discussed at the next meeting. CD also pointed out that any community feedback she has had so far has been positive.

**Date of next meeting:** 20 January 2021

**The meeting closed at 20.32.**

**Lochnorris Parent Council – Rolling Action Plan**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Update</b>
<b>27/10/20</b>	Parents Meetings	CO'D	Booking process worked well and these are under way.
<b>27/10/20</b>	Staffing	C O'D	Interview for 2 posts scheduled for December.
<b>27/10/20</b>	Breakfast Club	C O'D	Initial discussions with YIP world have commenced.
<b>27/10/20</b>	Contingency Planning	CO'D	This continues in the background and has worked well with P5/6
<b>27/10/20</b>	Input to Constitution before next meeting	All Members	Item closed at 1/12/20 meeting.
<b>27/10/20</b>	Notice for next meeting inviting additional members.	CD	Provided to school and added to Blog – App message also sent. Item closed at 1/12/20 meeting.
<b>01/12/2020</b>	Breakfast Club survey responses to be shared.	C O'D	
<b>01/12/2020</b>	Re-communication of the parent council email	CD	Available on blog. Approved minutes to be added after 20/1/21 meeting.
<b>01/12/2020</b>	Request for School Profile, information around pupil attainment, absence and general pupil demographics.	C O'D	Carried forward to March meeting with CO'D absent from 20/1/21.
<b>01/12/2020</b>	Workshop on school culture to be arranged.	C O'D	