

Lainshaw Parent Council

9th October 2024

Attendees: Jason Johnstone (HT), John Semple (Chair), Shona Semple, Leigh Brown, Laura Murphy, Caroline Laurie (Minutes), Anna Robertson, Ellen Freel, Heather, Lisa James

Apologies: Ariane Brown , Howard Fenton, Jane Milligan, Fiona Landon, Leanne Bruce, Lynda Latta

1) Welcome

JS welcomed everyone to the second Parent Council meeting of the 2023/24 school year, including new members.

JS provided an update from the Parent Council Steering Group, National Parent Forum of Scotland and other sector wide news. This included EA capital budgets, the role of the newly launched Scottish Assembly for Parents and Carer, and recognition of EA low attendance. JS confirmed that there is a communications channel from the Lainshaw Parent Council to these local and national forums.

2) HT Update

JJ provided an update on school activities since the last meeting.

Staffing:

- Mrs White returning from mat leave after October break. Mr Clark moving to P5F to cover a current absence.
- Mrs McFarlane is returning to the Principal Teacher role on the return to work of Miss Spiers, who is working on a phased return.

School improvement plan:

- Going well, and the leadership team has recently had a meeting to discuss any topics from the Care Inspectorate Visit and Learning Visit – the aim is good and very good across the institution.
- The plans are jam-packed and ambitious.

Attainment:

- Going well, and making good progress.

3) Homework

JJ confirmed the School have been reviewing homework on and off for a number of years, and it is currently under review. The school asked P4 to P7 teachers not to issue homework, until the review had been completed.

An informal survey had been done at school events, to try and engage the parent forum in a different way on this topic. Feedback from classes is only 1/3rd of homework being returned, and as Head Teacher, JJ needs to consider if this is the best use of teacher time. Due to the need for homework grids needing to be quite general, it is recognised that these are not working effectively.

JS provided feedback from the Academy Parent Council, that they did not feel major issue with primary school children's transition to Academy. JJ confirmed that Academy does not expect Primary schools to prepare students for workload in S1.

[JS to ask if academy wanted to send a rep for discussion of this]

Intention behind Learning Journals is partly to engage parents and help them understand what is being provided in school. JJ confirmed that parental engagement is a positive factor in attainment. Other school resources are available such as SumDog to support learning outwith school.

Homework strategy for P1 to 3 is much clearer, and more positive view on this from the parent forum. For P4 to P7 the feedback and impact is less clear.

The group discussed the pros and cons of homework, and it is clear that there is a wide spectrum of views on this.

JJ confirmed that after the October break P4s to P7s will be given homework, but exact format to be decided.

4) Learning Journals

JJ provided an update on learning Journals, and the minimum expectation for posting. As you get further up the school the students can be more autonomous in putting up their own work. This information will be provided on the blog.

The Parent forum generally have good feedback on Learning Journals. There was some discussion in the group that now the School app was more reliable, if the use of Learning Journals was appropriate for general school messages.

JJ confirmed the blog is the main source of static info.

[Action: PC to raise awareness of the blog]

5) Behaviour Policy Update

JJ provided update on new Behaviour Policy/positive relationships policy update.

There has been real evidence of improvement, and reduction in the number of calls home and exclusions. Staff have refresh training on the policy at the August Inservice day.

6) Survey Plans for 2024-25

The group discussed plans to survey the parent forum. Everyone was asked to provide suggested questions we may want to ask or key areas for feedback.

[Action: All]

7) AOB

An issue was raised over application and ongoing communication for P7 music Issues over initial. JJ will follow up on this.

JJ confirmed the P7 transition date clash had been resolved, and this would be communicated to parents. He also confirmed that information on the residential would go out after the October break.

The group discussed the recent coffee morning, and there was a discussion on practical ways that the coordination of this could be improved given how successful it had been and the impressive turnout.

EF also confirmed the metal object had been removed from the path to the west of the School. She also confirmed she had enquired but unfortunately there was no funding available to widen the path.

Next meeting – Monday 11th November 2024.