



Kilmarnock Academy

Parent Council Meeting

2nd February 2026

Conference Room, Kilmarnock Academy

Present: David Rose, Stephen Coyle, Elaine Paton, Donna Rae, Allan Reid, Jen Graham, Graham Boyd (Councillor), Neal Ingram (Councillor), Julie Connor, Fiona Milne, Claire-Louise Davidson, Lynsey Kerr, Angela Brownlie, Kirsty Dalglish, Dylan McClue and Laura McChristie

Apologies: Robert Joseph, Karen Paterson, Clare Purewal, Carol MacInnes and Fiona Anderson

Welcome, apologies and Steering Committee – Stephen Coyle

SC welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided apologies for those unable to attend. SC provided an update from the December Steering group which focused on the health impacts of youth vaping. The steering group were advised the situation across the whole of Ayrshire and Arran is a concern. More resources around this topic will be coming out and be covered in S2 PSE curriculum. DR advised that some of his staff had heard the briefing directly. Initial indications are that the education budget will potentially reduce next year, however this hasn't been approved by cabinet at EAC yet.

Cost of the school day – Kirsty Dalglish

KD explained that Kilmarnock Academy are doing the council proud in this area. One of the highlights is that the school were chosen to be one of 18 schools in Scotland to represent the secondary sector at the cost of the school day session. A group of girls from KA were chosen to present to the First Minister of Scotland at Bute House. KD was extremely proud of the group, and she said they were a fantastic voice of the school.

The winter clothes appeal went well, and a number of people have been accessing the donations. Should any young person need some assistance in this area, please contact your support teacher.

KD took the attendees through the list of initiatives on offer at Kilmarnock Academy, including support for uniform, period partnership, toiletries, IT equipment, financial help for school trips and other support. The Killie café remains popular amongst pupils and teachers, who often pop in to have informal chat with young people whilst they fuel for the day. The late lunch box is well used and demonstrates the benefits of supporting our young people outside of the school day if needed with food that would otherwise have gone to waste. On the run up to prelims over 400 study packs were produced, containing essential stationery and supplies for pupils.

The cost of the school day work will continue into this year, with a working group, pupil feedback and Children against poverty action group looking to engage with the school again this year.

Attendance & Timekeeping – Angela Brownlie/Dylan McClue

AB and DMcC took the attendees through the latest findings which have come out of attendance and time keeping data. Attendance remains a concern across the whole of EAC and the wider country however active interventions and analysis of trends has allowed Kilmarnock Academy to continue to improve. As of Feb 26, overall attendance continues to increase, with 2022-2023 at 83% 2023-2024 at 83.6% and 2024-

2025 at 87%. The target set for this year is to achieve 89% after the stretch target for last year of 85.5% was exceeded.

AB/DMcC explained that the Forth valley toolkit was used to create the new attendance policy, including daily and weekly procedures. DMcC explained the link between attendance and attainment and AB said that the school wants pupils to attend, and teachers do notice when you don't attend.

One area the parent council were keen to hear about was timekeeping since the removal of school transportation. We were pleased to hear that timekeeping has actually improved recently, with initial thoughts that Killie Café and pupils being dropped off are contributing factors. Lateness instances are down 1.4 per pupil from last session.

NI asked if there were any trends that had been identified that could be shared with other schools and DR and AB explained they have already spoke to other head teachers. Another local authority who has seen improvements in attendance put this down to rigor, KA have established rigor and are starting to drive improvements.

AOB – Stephen Coyle

Gowanbank

The planned Study Weekend to Gowanbank has been revised due to low uptake in numbers. This is the first time numbers have been so low, and we discussed if this was potentially due to a clash with the London trip for the same year groups. The study day will contain the same number of study hours as the weekend, with young people also getting the opportunity to participate in some activities to help with wellbeing during what can be a stressful period. Details below

Senior Phase Study Day

As advertised/ advised last week we have not a new offer of support and activity.

A day of free study support/ tutoring in over 10 subjects and activity including lunch, dine/ smores for only £30 – bargain of the session! Limited spaces – early sign up recommended.

Ready, Aim, Succeed!

Adventurous Activities
Exam preparation
£30
Sat 28th March
Meet at 8:30am at Gowanbank Activity Centre, depart at 8pm
Lunch, Dinner and Smores included

Archery, Adventure Skills, Tree climbing
S4/5/6 only

Study sessions available

- Maths (Higher & N5)
- Biology/Human (Higher & N5)
- Chemistry (Higher & N5)
- Physics (Higher & N5)
- Design & Manufacture (Higher)
- Modern Studies/ Politics (Higher & N5)
- Geography (Higher & N5)
- History (Higher & N5)
- Modern Languages (Higher & N5)
- PE (Higher & N5)

Ready, Aim, Succeed!

Secure your place on ParentPay!

Why go?

- Get a head start for exam season with direct help from subject teachers
- Fun outdoor activities to break up the study sessions
- Great value - a private tutor costs about £40, this full day is only £30!

Christmas Fayre

DR confirmed the Christmas Fayre was a great success again this year, raising almost £3,000. Discussion around location of the parent council ball stall, as it was felt we created a bottle neck for people entering the hall.

Bus Bay Update

DR confirmed that funding has been approved for the updates at the bus bays, however they are subject to workstream scheduling. There are no blockers to the changes other than waiting on resource to be allocated. Councillor GB advised that drop off signs are due to be put in place at the drop off points and updated signs at the school entrance will also be added.

Littering

Councillor GB advised that the littering issue in the community is 3 strands. Mainly the trail over to the key store from the school grounds. The community council have fed back that within the first week of school being back after Christmas there was a lot of litter again. The playparks where the bins were overflowing and dog poo was sitting on top. The third strand is that when both secondary schools were approved there was a dedicated street cleaner put in place, however he has since retired and hasn't been replaced. Attendees discussed the need for EAC to empty the bins on a more regular basis, given the limited numbers available within the school grounds and immediate vicinity. The parent council would ask that you speak to your young people and ask that they dispose of their rubbish in the most appropriate manner.

Following the meeting this month the community council posted on their Facebook page a thank you post for a group of school pupils who were involved in a litter pick during school time.

The local community council do a litter picking activity each month and are regularly looking for volunteers to help. Details can be found on their Facebook page – New Farm Loch Community Council. The next Litter Pick is scheduled for 22nd February 2026 @ 10.30am at Keystore on Cameron Drive if anyone wishes to attend.

Gritting

DR addressed the gritting situation around the campus, following feedback from an extremely difficult day last year. There are priority routes which were agreed when the school was created which ensures pupils can arrive safely, details are at the bottom of this document. It is worth noting that the particular day in question the temperature fell below the threshold where the salt would have been affected. On that day in particular over 50 bags of salt were put down over the campus.

Leavers Day

DR explained that S6 leavers day has been moved this year and aligned with other schools in the local authority. It is noted that a very small number of pupils will have their Spanish exam the following day.

Toilets

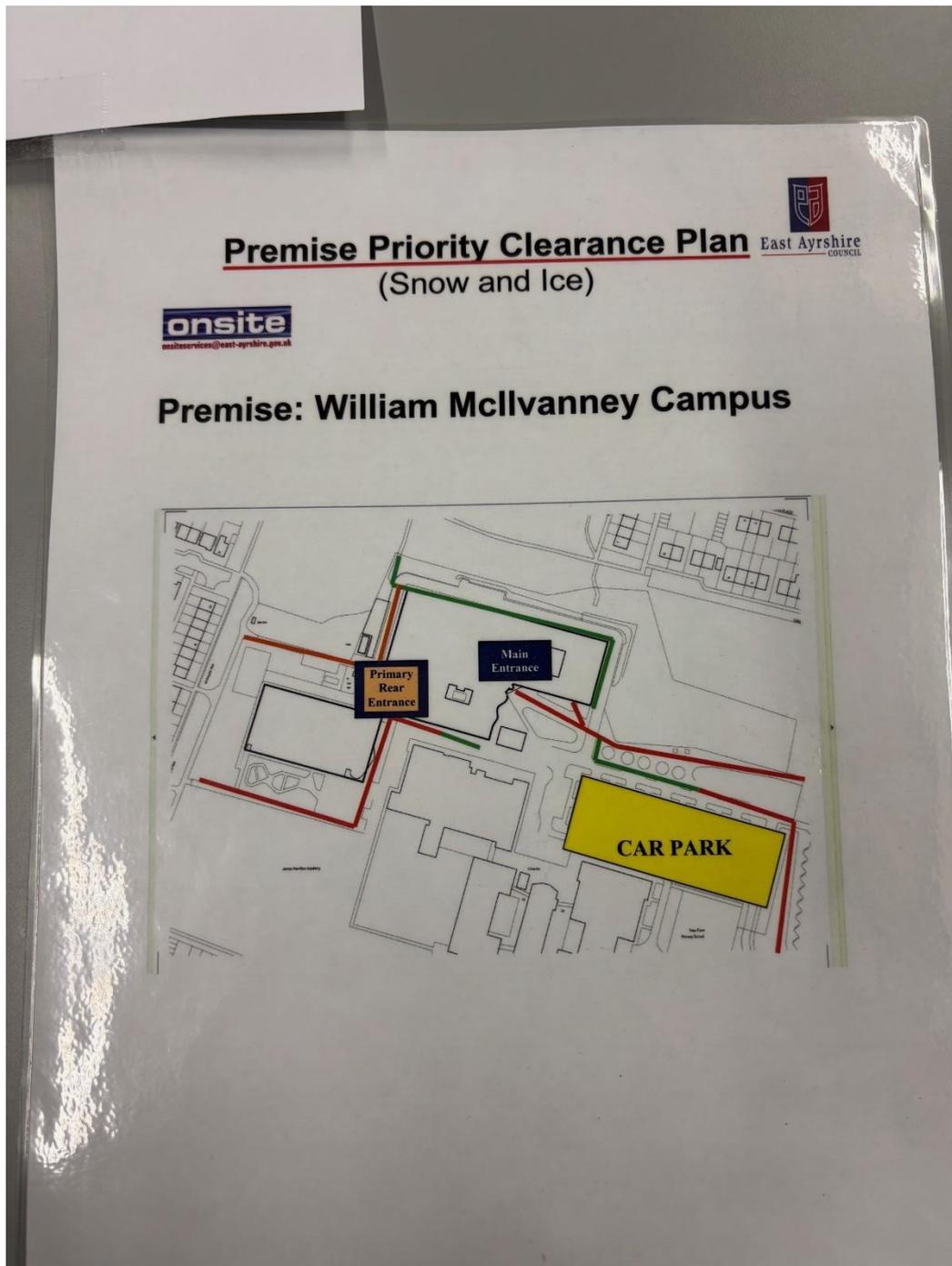
A number of concerns around the toilets were highlighted to the parent council, including locks not working, smells, defects with taps and soap dispensers. DR explained that the facilities staff, which are not managed by the school have been running under resourced recently due to long term sickness. Since the meeting DR has inspected the facilities and provided the parent council with an update on what was found. If your young people find the facilities lacking in provisions, or low maintenance please ask them to report the issues to the team. This will allow action to be taken to improve the situation. DR assured the attendees that the toilets are cleaned multiple times every day but reminded us of the number of people using the facilities.

New Parent Council Members

We are actively looking for new members to join the parent council. If you feel you have a few hours per month to help work with the school and parents for our young people, then we'd like to hear from you. You can express interest by emailing us at kilmarnockacademyparentcouncil@gmail.com or you can come along to the next meeting. Meetings are generally the first Monday each month, and last c 2 hours.

The next parent council meeting will be held on Monday 2nd March 2026 at 6.30pm in the conference room, Kilmarnock Academy. If you would like to join the parent council, please come along on the evening.

If you have anything you'd like to bring to the attention of the parent council, please get in touch by emailing kilmarnockacademyparentcouncil@gmail.com, you can also keep up to date with updates on the Kilmarnock Academy Parent Council Facebook page.



Premise Priority Clearance Plan (Snow and Ice)



Premise: William McIlvanney Campus

Priority	Where	Time	Who	Details
1	Main paths to school entrance	As Required	Janitors	Clear snow and ice grit as required
2	Fire exit, Rear paths through rear playground	As Required	Janitors	Clear snow and ice grit as required
3	Bicycle shed and path entrance	As Required	Janitors	Clear snow and ice grit as required
4	Main car park	As Required	Janitors	Clear snow and ice grit as required
5				

Premise Specific Information:-

SIGNATURE
PREMISE MANAGER

DATE 18/11/2025

SIGNATURE
JANITOR/CARETAKER/CENTRE SUPERVISOR/FACILITIES CO-ORDINATOR

DATE 18/11/2025