

Williamwood Parent Council Annual Report 2012-13

What has the Parent Council ever done for us?

Created the Flying Start initiative, which is aimed at tapping into the knowledge and experience of parents to benefit pupils – demonstrating the many careers that are possible and helping pupils to see how they might focus their time at school to give themselves the best chance of success.

- Through the Flying Start project, parents with pupils at Williamwood provide opportunities for work experience, coaching and interview techniques to help our pupils be better prepared to overcome barriers to employment or higher education. A short video is available (from the Parent Council area on the school website) explaining what Flying Start is all about. Leaflets have been provided to all parents and Parent Council members have attended various events to promote the project including: all parents' nights, and the recent STEM Fair and Careers evening. This activity has led to a total of 63 parents, companies and former pupils signing up to Flying Start, all to help the future prospects of Williamwood pupils. The Parent Council aims to build on this excellent foundation in future years.
- **How can I get involved in Flying Start?** – click on the link on the school webpage, or send your contact details to the Parent Council email info@whs-pc.co.uk

Communicated with Parents, through improved webpages on the main school website. Lots of information, including key details about Curriculum for Excellence are available by clicking on the 'Parent Council' tab at the top of the home page on <insert website address>.

- Two sets of material were added to the website this year: East Renfrewshire Parent Chairs Forum and the National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFS). If you would like to know more about the new National 4 & 5 qualifications being introduced in 2014, have a look at the NPFS website and the 'Nationals in a Nutshell' information sheets – these set out, on a subject by subject basis, what pupils are learning as part of the new qualifications and how they are likely to be taught and assessed.
- You can also find the Parent Council contact details and information about our meetings on the website.

- Members of the Parent Council attend many of the evening events hosted by the school (such as the parents' and careers evenings). This is to help raise awareness of our work and to establish a positive relationship with parents.

Provided links to activity in East Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire Council has two parent groups: the Parent Council Chairs and the Equalities Forum, hosting three meetings each year of both groups. These provide a forum for parent representatives to discuss topics of interest to parents, mostly with an educational focus, such as the examination results across the authority and nationally. Notes of the meetings are posted on the Parent Council webpages.

How is the Parent Council funded?

Every Parent Council is allocated a sum of money on an annual basis to help support its work. For WHS Parent Council this is in the region of £900. Last year donations were made to the school's Charity Week campaign and the school's general purposes fund.

For 2013-14, expenditure should clearly support the Parent Council's objectives for the year, primarily the **Flying Start** initiative.

What will the Parent Council do next?

In 2013-14, the Parent Council intends to:

- i) Embed the Flying Start initiative
- ii) Support the school and share information with parents about Curriculum for Excellence and what it means for pupils
- iii) Develop other innovative projects where parental involvement can add value, such as the school's links with Malawi
- iv) Develop closer links with pupil bodies, such as the Pupil Council and the Charities Committee
- v) Strengthen links with the PTA
- vi) Continue developing the Parent Council webpages

Are there other areas you think the Parent Council should consider? If so, let us know!

How can I get in touch with the Parent Council?

The email address for the Parent Council is available on the Contact Us button of the Williamwood website or by emailing info@whs-pc.co.uk.

(NB The email address is hosted externally; it is not contained within the school website. This ensures parent confidentiality, as well as being easier to administer)

Can't remember why we have a Parent Council?

The Parent Council - A Quick Reminder

Parent Councils were established under the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 in recognition of the important role that parents can play, both in their own children's learning, and in the life of a school.

The Parent Forum is the collective name for every parent, carer or guardian at a school.

Under the 2006 legislation the role of the Parent Council is to:

- support the school in its work with pupils
- represent the views of parents and carers
- encourage links between the school, parents and carers, pupils, pre-school groups and the wider community

Parent Councils are designed to be flexible, to ensure that they can effectively represent their own school community and interests. Parent Councils provide an opportunity for parents to get involved in ways that suit them, and to support their school in getting the best education for all pupils.

Parents have unique skills, interests, knowledge and experience. They are members of their local communities and have links that the school may not have and crucially are in touch with other parents

This document is the Annual Report of the Williamwood Parent Council 2012/13

Bobby Caldwell
Chairperson, Williamwood Parent Council
October 2013