



CROOKFUR PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

My name is Denny Henderson and I am the current Chair of the Crookfur Primary School Parent Council. I have sons in P6B and P7A.

Welcome back to all of you who were at Crookfur last year and a very warm welcome to all those whose children have joined the school recently.



Although growing in size, Crookfur has a relatively small catchment area and we are really proud of our Crookfur community. As well as supporting your child through their school journey, there are some parent groups that we have that are always looking for new members. These groups work with the school to make our school and our community as strong as possible.

The Parent Council is our main parent group, but we also have a Fundraising and Social Committee and a Diversity Group.

Role of the Parent Council

The Parent Council represents all parents/carers of children at Crookfur Primary (also known as the Parent Forum). Legally all schools are required to have a Parent Council. We help to support school improvements, communications and partnerships. We also aim to improve links between parents, the school, the local authority and the local community.

We work closely with the school to ensure that the school understands the issues faced by families and make sure that parents and carers get the information that they need from the school in an accessible way.

The Head Teacher and other members of school management attend our meetings. Any parent or carer can raise an issue for the Parent Council to discuss with staff at the next meeting, but matters relating to individual children should be raised directly with the school.

Our Parent Council



Crookfur has a large and active Parent Council. We meet around seven times in a school year and had 22 parent representatives in 2020/21. Each year group can have up to three representatives. A full list of the Parent Council members and minutes of previous meetings can be found on the school website [here](#). If you have something you'd like raised at the meeting you can let your year group rep know.

If you have a child in **Primary 1** and would like to be a Parent Council representative, you should email CrookfurParentCouncil@gmail.com to express interest. If more than three parents/carers apply, then we will do a ballot. We also have a space for another representative for **Primary 5**.

APPLY NOW



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Parent Council meetings

The Parent Council meets seven times during the school year and these meetings take place in the evening. In 2021/22 we expect these meetings will continue to be held over Zoom, at least initially. Mrs McGuigan and other members of the school leadership team also attend these meetings. Any parent or carer who wishes to attend the meetings is welcome to do so.



Dates of the Parent Council meetings will be included in the school calendar, which will be available on the [school website](#) once it is updated.

Communication from the Parent Council to parents/carers



The Parent Council has several different ways of communicating with parents.

- Our main method of communication is our private [Facebook](#) group. This is used to share information issued by the school and other related information.
- A summary of recent parent council news is included in Mrs McGuigan's weekly round-up newsletter.
- We know that not all parents are on Facebook, so we will send emails via the school for any matter which needs to be communicated to all parents.
- We have a page on the [school website](#) which is where you will find past minutes and details of the year group reps.
- We also have a [Twitter](#) account @CrookurPC.

Each of the school year groups also has a parent-run Facebook page and many of the year groups also have class (or full year) WhatsApp groups. These groups are used for asking questions about homework, upcoming trips etc. They are not "official" Parent Council groups, but rather places for parents to ask questions and share information. If you are struggling to find a Facebook group or WhatsApp group, just drop me an email.

How parents/carers can contact the Parent Council

If you have any matters you'd like to raise with the Parent Council, you can either contact your year group rep, or send an email to CrookfurParentCouncil@gmail.com.

AGM – Wednesday 8th September 2021 8pm via Zoom

The AGM will take place on Tuesday 8th September at 8pm via Zoom. All parents/carers are welcome to dial in, and should [email](#) to be sent the meeting details. At the AGM, the Chair gives a report on activities in previous year, new Parent Council representatives are welcomed, and the office bearers are elected. The financial position for 2020/21 will also be presented. Parent and carers are welcome to ask any questions of the Parent Council, about their performance for 2020/21 or their plans for the year ahead.



The first meeting of the year will take place immediately following the AGM.



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Crookfur Fundraising & Social Committee



The Fundraising & Social Committee is a group of parents which usually organises fundraising events such as discos, Christmas Fairs, Summer Fun Days etc. and also non-fundraising social events. Due to COVID-19, activities have been somewhat limited but hopefully there will be potential for some events this year.

Money raised by the Fundraising & Social Committee is used for the items not covered by the school budget such as the skills academy, P1 Christmas presents, author visits, school trips (each child gets £2 towards trips from Fundraising each year) and lots more. Mrs McGuigan also wants to spend money on the school playground to try to make it a more interesting space for the kids to use. We estimate that we need to raise around £4,000 per year from events to cover the usual costs with any additional amounts raised being available for other school projects e.g. the playground improvements.

The first Fundraising & Social Committee meeting will take place via Zoom later in September (date tbc). New members are always welcome so if you would like to join the call and get involved, please email CrookfurFundraising@gmail.com.



When we can get some events up and running we will also be looking for volunteers to help out on the day.

Diversity Group



The Diversity Group is a group of parents/carers and staff which discusses issues such as culturally responsive learning and teaching, additional support needs and inclusion, gender/gender bias and LGBTQ+. The group also considers issues relating to child poverty and the Cost of the School Day.

It is a very informal and relaxed group chaired by Mrs McGuigan which meets in the evenings using Google Meet.

Other opportunities for you to get involved



There are many other ways that a parent/carer can get involved with the school as well as joining one of the groups above such as:

- Joining your child's class WhatsApp and Facebook pages.
- Responding to surveys from the school or local authority.
- Providing help or expertise as required by the school e.g. talking about your job, helping in the Skills Academy
- Running or helping at a lunchtime or afterschool club e.g. Lego club, arts & crafts club
- Attending school events such as parents' evenings, assemblies, sports days etc
- Letting your Parent Council rep know if you have any questions



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At Crookfur, parents and carers are encouraged to be part of the school community. Given the ongoing COVID situation, some face-to-face activities might be limited in 2021-22 but the Parent Council will continue to work with the school to ensure parents/carers still feel involved.

I hope that you have found the information in this letter useful. Please get in touch if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Denny Henderson'.

Denny Henderson
Chair – Crookfur Primary School Parent Council
CrookfurParentCouncil@gmail.com