



Giffnock Primary Parent Council

Note of Meeting

11th January 2019

Attendees:

Gemma Meenan, Fiona Walker, Nicola Dooley, Jacqui Grant, Vikki McQuarrie, Al Milloy, Rob Lawson, Kirsty Rawley, Catriona Townsley, Rachel Philps, Leigh Perrott

1) Cost of the School Day

- Rob shared information from the Scottish Government on the cost of the school day including period poverty, audit and the ongoing information on the toolkits available, music economy (funds for music tuition). On this subject Rob shared that P4,5 and 6 can access an instrument for one year (paying around £300 p.a.) which is cheaper than private tuition. Jackie mentioned that she is a musician by profession and shared her experiences on funding cuts in music. GPS is working hard to broaden pupils experience in music.

2) Communication

- Rob mentioned the school was trying to avoid paper communication where possible, favouring electronic communication. It was highlighted that the PI community feel they receive too much communication – the group discussed and agreed we would always rather too much and if an e-mail does not apply or the parent/carer has no interest in the content then it is simple enough to ignore/delete. Basically, the PC agreed you can dip in and out of what communication interests a parent/carer.
- Catriona mentioned her vocation is an internal communications manager so GPS can approach her and she would be happy to assist if required.

3) P7 “Bring Your Own Device to School”

- Rob and Kirsty were trying to ascertain parent’s thoughts on this initiative – how should they pitch this? Rob mentioned that the school thought that some children (if allowed) could bring in a hand held device to school with some discussion on how this fits into learning.
- GPS made it clear that if devices were brought into the classroom environment pupils would only be allowed to use them at set times and not in the playground – children run the risk of damage/loss themselves.
- GPS were proposing to allow children the option to bring in a device with the aim of showing the pupils homework apps, kahoot, discuss the social stigma of phone use – GPS suggested this could tie in with digital leaders coming to the school from Woodfarm.
- Nicola mentioned that her children did not have access to such devices and was concerned about the impact of this event for children that are not exposed to hand held devices around the home. Some parents mentioned that if they were to visit a friend’s house and have a play, chances are they would come into contact with a mobile device and would it perhaps be an option to show children how to be safe on social media with the thought process they will be exposed to it at some point.
- Following our discussion, there was not a clear consensus from the Parent Council regarding whether asking P7s to bring in their own devices for a set of five or so lessons in May was seen as desirable. So at this time no decision has been made.

Post meeting note:

- GPS have planned an information evening on the 19th March for parents where some of these matters will again be shared following which, and having listened to our families there, the school leadership team will make a final decision on the matter. There will be the set of lessons regarding managing the use of personal devices for P7 in May, however whether or not we will invite the children to bring in their own devices for this remains the question.

4) AOB

- Gemma suggested that for P1 – P3 pupils, could it be agreed that they wear polo shirts every day? **ACTION – to be added to agenda for the next meeting.**
- GPS mentioned the P7 run community café was still very popular with the school community. Rachel mentioned uniforms and it was agreed the PC could do a “pop-up” at the next café to get rid of some lost property. Rachel mentioned a local business that “sells on” schoolwear, however, the PC would prefer to keep the blazers if any family wishes one for their child. **ACTION – PC to do popup stall at next Community Cafe**
- Fi gave a quick update on fundraising, mentioning the ceilidh profit and that the FR Cttee were working on an event for the 27th March, then the BBQ.
- Leigh mentioned that she had been working with Cllr Merrick on highlighting some of the parking issues/traffic pinch points around the school.

Post Meeting Note:

- Since the meeting the school and PC have shared some local council meetings on the parking issues around East Ren schools. Cllr Merrick has advised that any member of the community can call the local Community Wardens who monitor parking on 0800 013 0076.

Next meeting is 25th February 2019, 7pm.