



ISOBEL MAIR SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting – 12th June 2020

Present: Tracey Campbell (TC)	Sarah Clark (SC)
Heather Robertson (HR)	Nick Crossan (NC)
Mairi-Jean Watkins (MW)	Susie Calder (SCR)
Phemia McCarthy (PM)	Kirsteen MacKay (KM)
Karin French (KF)	Susan Goodlad (SG)
Joanne McAlpine (JM)	Shauna Melvin (SM)
	Joanne Todd (JT)

Welcome

SC welcomed everyone to this first virtual Parent Council meeting.

It was explained that this would be a different meeting with the school providing a timeline of where we are now and what is happening.

The school will provide answers on questions which had been collected prior to the meeting.

Timeline – SC

School continues to operate as a hub for key workers and vulnerable pupils.

Week beginning 15th June - wellbeing plans will be sent out in batches via group call. The wellbeing plans will evaluate learning and progress up to March 2020.

A survey will be sent to parents at the beginning of next week (15th June) to support the school leadership team with the planning for session 2020/21.

Isobel Mair pupils who attend Woodfarm will return to IMS building due to the socially distancing requirements at Woodfarm.

Questions and answers

Q1 - Will there be any extra provision for families with a key worker?

Yes children of key workers will still be accessing hubs. They will join their class as part of either group A or B and then be in hub similar to format as now. Pupils of key workers will have provision, you will be able to apply for a space from August, IMS will be in contact.

Q2 - If families only have one key worker but have additional vulnerabilities will they be considered for extra provision?

We will work with EPS and Social Work to determine if there is a need for extra provision beyond the two days. We will have to also take into account the capacity of the school and complying with social distancing measures. We have to be equitable to ensure all pupils across the school population have two days in class with their teacher and this will also determine capacity for further provision.

Q3 - Will school transport be available?

Due to social distancing restrictions we have reduced capacity on school transport. This will mean parents having the option of bringing their child to school or awaiting the bus pick up. Pick up times will be different from normal both coming to and from school. Parents will be encouraged to bring children to school and collect at the end of the day.

NC advised that he had been at a transport meeting. Ongoing risk assessment to allow for safe travel on school transport. No community outings will take place during this phase.

Current risk assessment allows for:

Small bus – 1 driver, 1 escort, 1 pupil

Mini bus – 1 driver, 1 escort, 2 pupils

Large bus – 1 driver, 1 escort, 5 pupils

This will be included in the survey to identify who can bring their child to school.

MW discussed the challenges families will face dropping off at different schools and getting to work. Staggered start times would help with these pressures.

SC advised she is having further discussions about staggered times with ERC and how this could work at IMS.

Q4 - What are the plans for families who are shielding?

Individual risk assessments will be carried out based on Government advice.

MW advised that shielding has been extended to 31st July and this is depended on the R number.

Q5 - What will be put in place for those kids who haven't adapted to home-schooling, what can be done to ensure that they are getting the education they are entitled to? Are there any plans to bring the kids who have been left behind by home schooling up to the same level as their peers who have been able to engage?

Focus will be on reconnecting with learning in line with the wellbeing plans. Practical resources will be created to support the blended learning approach.

Q6 - How are ERC going to deal with the significant impact of mental health and wellbeing on children?

The main focus when they go back is Health and Wellbeing, literacy and maths. They have been looking at external sources too. Pupil health and wellbeing: Also, Ed Psych Service will

be supporting the staff and pupils in the school throughout transition and reopening.

Q7 - Are children that require suction going to be allowed in school and on the school bus?

Following Government Guidance/ Individual risk assessments

Q8 - Will schools be doing as much as possible to avoid changing teachers to limit the impact of transitions?

Due to our ever changing numbers we are trying where possible to maintain educators in classes but this will not be possible across the whole school. Pupil support staff will be placed to further support consistency.

Q9 - The return to school will be a massive transition for some children, what will ERC planning to do to help children with this?

Transition support: Early Years PTs have been preparing transition support materials, regular contact with new P1 parents, social stories and also virtual tour of the school to supplement the transition work already undertaken in Term 2. Visits to the school scheduled for 1x parent and child over the next two weeks. Microsoft Teams created to establish an online platform to access support materials.

Post school transitions are ongoing and pupils have plans in place, although some may be stalled due to delays to services and colleges being able to physically reopen. Education will hand over to HSCP at the end of the term as usual and of course we will be happy to support anyone whose plans have to change once we are back in August. Planning is ongoing to support those pupils who are entering their transition year in August.

School staff are highly skilled in supporting transitions. All pupils will continue to be supported with the usual social stories as well as videos.

HR asked about a future leaver's service and prom.

SC advised that we are already working on some ideas and will be inviting our current leavers for a service/celebration when it is safe to do so.

Q10 - Are kids with ASN being included in those that require extra time to transition?

See Above – not with school visits (Primary 1 only)

Q11 - Social distancing will be very difficult for young children or for those with ASN. What are the plans to combat this without raising anxiety and stress on kids?

Whilst as much as possible will be done to stick to social distancing rules the schools will also be using hand sanitiser, cleaning and PPE as appropriate. The hub schools have had young children at them and they have been coping. The latest info is that not only are young children unlikely to get the virus it seems they are not likely to pass it on to others too.

PPE fully used during personal care/ feeding etc.

Q12 - Why do teachers need 2 in service days in August when they are in school from June preparing?

In service days are in the teacher's contract. They don't yet know how this will be managed but the in-service days are a beneficial start to the year. Even though staff can access school in June, there are still quite a number of pupils attending. Teachers need time in August in-service to get the physical environment ready without pupils in the building. There are also staff that fall under the shielding category.

Q13 - Will those who have been attending school/hubs be able to maintain that over summer?

"Hub" at IMS will be available over the summer in a continuation of the format that has been in place since March.

SC advised she is having discussions with Inclusive Support to support this.

Q14 - If schools are closed over summer will they be able to be used as a community hub where parents can organise events to keep children happy and give parents a break?

Not Applicable at IMS as there will be vulnerable and key worker pupils attending throughout.

Q15 - Could the time over the summer be used to implement safe delivery of schools curriculum to those who haven't engaged with home schooling?

Holidays are in the teacher contract, on a voluntary basis teachers can attend and support vulnerable pupils and key workers who will be attending the school through the summer. This is to provide additional childcare for vulnerable and key worker children – this is not curriculum delivery.

SC advised that ERC has created a vault of resources and videos to support learning and teaching. Working with the Sensory Support Service to further develop these resources to support pupils with hearing impairments.

Q16 - Has the outdoor classroom area been fixed at IMS been fixed to maximise outdoor learning as per government preference?

We are working with ERC to ensure outdoor areas are ready to facilitate further outdoor learning from August.

Q17 - Do children with ASN fall into the vulnerable category?

We are working alongside Social Work and EPS to determine those pupils who require further support through attending the IMS provision. We are limited in numbers due to social distancing and staffing and so a rota is used to accommodate places. Some children may be vulnerable due to health or it may be home circumstances.

Q18 - Are there any provisions for those who require a transition from S6 to college or from school?

Post school transitions are ongoing and pupils have plans in place, although some may be stalled due to delays to services and colleges being able to physically reopen. Education will hand over to HSCP at the end of the term as usual and of course we will be happy to support anyone whose plans have to change once we are back in August. Planning is ongoing to support those pupils who are entering their transition year in August.

Q19 - What will be done to explain to the children about part time schooling? There are many concerns about children with ASN not coping with blended school, learning both at home and in school.

Social stories and visual timetables will be created to support pupils with the transition to blended learning.

Q20 -If my child only has 8 in a class anyway why would they need to consider blended learning. My other child will be going to a class with at least 16 children in it?

Every classroom area has been measured by Health and Safety representatives. Taking into account there are around 3 adults in every classroom, the recommended number of pupils in the room to accommodate social distancing is 3-4. Each class group will have tailored social distancing guidelines due to the differing needs and footprint that pupils make around the space.

Q21 - Will the IMS kids that are based at Woodfarm return to Woodfarm or IMS?

IMS pupils based at Woodfarm will be returning to IMS in the short term. Further details will be provided by end of June.

KF asked if the school could consider other locations out with IMS as the move back to IMS feels like a step back for those pupils. Offered to start a walking bus for those that live locally.

SC advised that discussions are ongoing on available space during this phase.

SC thanked everyone for taking the time to meet with us during this challenging time.