

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
Inclusion, Achievement, Ambition and Progress for All

**Note of the meeting of Minority Ethnic Parent Forum held on
Monday 11 June 2012 at 9.30am in Woodfarm High School**

Present: Councillor Elaine Green, Convener of Education and Equalities
Susan Gow, Head of Education Services
Maureen Sneddon, Quality Improvement Officer

In attendance: S Shariff, Bilingual support worker
Najma Abba, Bilingual support worker

1. M Sneddon welcomed and introduced those present.
2. The agenda and previous minutes were issued by M Sneddon. No points were raised from the minutes.
3. M Sneddon spent some time feeding back on the recent consultation which was undertaken by the Education Department with minority ethnic parents. This included the topics consulted on, the findings and the subsequent action points for schools/the department. There was discussion about each of the action points. In particular, parents indicated that they would like the halal meat pilots to be continued and widened. A concern was also expressed regarding the recording of pupil absences. These will be followed up as part of the department's action points.
The responses from those who participated in the online consultation and the focus groups were generally very positive. The information on the findings and the action points has been disseminated to all schools and pre5 centres and is also available on the ERC intranet.
4. Susan Gow outlined the department's vision for the future of the minority ethnic parent forum, based on the feedback received from the consultation, which strongly suggested that the forum, as it currently exists, is outdated now in terms of multicultural integration. It is proposed that we continue to meet x3 per session as a wider equalities forum and that the equalities coordinators from the schools are present along with a parent representative from each school. These meetings will take place on dates agreed in advance and at 4pm. M Sneddon is meeting with the school equalities coordinators on 18 June and will discuss this with them.
5. AOCB
Concern was raised by a couple of parents about the existing sexual health programme in schools, particularly at P6/7. They felt that some of the information being given to children was not in keeping with their cultural/religious sensitivities. Parents were encouraged to have a dialogue with their schools/HTs about their concerns.
6. Date of next meeting – to be confirmed.