



## NETHERLEE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Netherlee Parent Council

#### Meeting –17 October 2022

<b>Members</b>	Adam Capek	AC			
	Martin Whitehead	MW	<b>Parents</b>	Laura Kneale	
	Victoria Pearson	VP	<b>NPS</b>	Yvonne Donaldson (HT)	YD
	Tennant Stevenson	TS		Lynn Sweeney (DHT)	LS
	Duncan MacKinnon	DMK		Julie Roberts (DHT)	JR
	Rory McCoy	RMC	<b>CIlr</b>	Annette Ireland ( <i>part</i> )	AI
	Felicity Rose ( <i>part</i> )	FR			
	Michelle Borland ( <i>part</i> )	MB			
	Emma Anson	EA			

#### Welcome

AC opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

#### 1. Apologies

Apologies were noted from: Jane Thomson, Kaneez Fizza, Harriet Boyle, Gillian Gray, Fiona MacMillan, Nav Baksh, Mike Law, Joanna Haw. Felicity Rose & Michelle Borland will join the meeting when available.

#### 2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were approved by DMK.

#### 3. Election of New Members

RMC was proposed as member by AC and seconded by MW. MB was proposed as member by EA and seconded by VP.

#### 4. Head Teacher's Report

- Open Door events: YD canvassed opinion from Parent Council. General response was positive from those able to attend. YD noted it was well attended, potentially due to the previous period of not being able to host events in the school. YD explained that she is aware that daytime scheduling of events didn't suit everyone but advised that classroom events with pupils in attendance, by their nature, needed to be during the day. There are 3-4 similar Open Classroom events in the year to give the opportunity for most parents to attend at least one event.

YD noted that the 'chatter cafes' also provided opportunity for some parents to have informal conversations with the school team face-to-face, build relationships and for the staff to hear ideas direct. The intention is to have 1 per term and the last was attended by 20-25 parents.

- Travel Plan (relating to travel initiatives relating to the school): YD advised that the Travel Plan was currently being reviewed and updated and would be published in due course.
- Information Sessions: YD advised that the next session would be on 24<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023 and was keen for the Parent Council to canvas opinion from parents on what topics would be helpful. Examples of previous topics included: sleep routines, online safety, nutrition advice. Please **Note- date has now been changed 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023.**

Parent Council to pose question in newsletter and direct parents to the school link. School Team to include information in the Friday bundle. Potential topics to be discussed further at next parent council meeting.

- School and Nursery Improvement Plan: YD advised that the SNIP sets out the priorities for the next term and noted it would be published on the website on 28/10/2022
- In Service Day: LS summarised the training done on the in-service day which included 4 key topics: digital, drama & dance, writing & everyone matters.
  - Digital session looked at auditing the current IT provision and producing planning document to progress the digital teaching in the school
  - Drama & dance session was reviewing benchmarks and how to assess development. It also included how to link with the wider community and celebrating pupils' achievement outside of the school.
  - Writing session looked at refreshing the current writing policy within the East Renfrewshire literacy framework. There was also information on providing additional support for students who require it and how to incorporate the writing policy into play-based learning.
  - Everyone Matters pertains to equality, diversity & equity. The school will be gathering P4-7 pupil groups again. The aspects of this session tie in with the School's Family Focus Gold accreditation. There may also be a focus on these elements in the homework tasks and information will be included in the Improvement Plan. YD noted that the school had been given advice on how address the requirements of pupils with English as an Additional Language including advice on alternative resources, what staff can do, the use of buddies etc.
- National discussion on Education: AC advised that the Scottish Government is looking for parental input. YD advised that the school can submit staff & pupil views and the Parent

Council can gather parental views and submit as a group. It was agreed that this would be highlighted in the PC Newsletter

#### Questions to Headteacher:

Has there been any further clarity on potential strike action? *YD advised they don't have any further information that isn't already in the public domain and the general public will generally hear at the same time as herself.*

#### **5. Homework Policy**

JR advised that there have been 3 feedback sessions with approx. 6 parents at each session. General response was positive with some feedback requesting that the tasks be a bit more challenging. The Feedback Friday was seen as positive and LS & YD advised that the feedback given takes different forms (eg groups, whole class, presentations) depending on the age/stage and the requirements of the individual pupil. YD, JR, LS advised that the pupils seemed very engaged in the feedback sessions and motivated to share what they had done.

DMK noted that it is important that these positive outcomes are shared widely with the parent body to help allay any concerns over the new homework policy.

Feedback from parents included:

- More independence for the children is positive
- Hard to keep tabs on what the children are doing day to day whereas the weekly system had more structure
- Concern over mixed messages relating to 'core' & 'free' topics
- Good that it is self-directed but stuff done as a hobby become homework tasks
- The monthly, as opposed to weekly format, opened Fridays and weekends for pupils to complete tasks which is helpful for pupils in after-school clubs during the week
- The reliance on tablet-based tasks made it difficult for pupils who used to complete some tasks in their after-school club

YD advised that, if parents/pupils, are engaging with the homework tasks the 'core' tasks are the priority. YD reiterated that any parents with concerns it is often easiest to allay concerns with a phonecall or brief face-to-face meeting. Extra-curricular activities can be entered into the empty boxes on the matrix and used as a show and tell for the pupil to let the teacher know what they have been doing.

VP added a note of thanks to the school for the effort that had gone into the policy and it was encouraging that it was an evidence based approach that they were taking.

#### **6. Jewellery and PE policy**

AC advised that the Parent Council had received a response from East Renfrewshire Council which was very clear that the risk assessments had been completed and the policy would not be changing.

## **7. Walk to School Challenge**

Laura Kneale (LK) from the charity Living Streets was introduced and attended the meeting following a conversation with Gilly Bell (now Ford) at one of the drop-in sessions. LK is keen to work with the school and there was an opportunity to tie in with the school's update to their travel plan. LK advised that the charity's aim was to encourage pupils to walk to school and remove barriers that discourage parents from letting their children walk to school. There was an understanding that for some pupils walking to school is not possible and they were looking into ways that the promotion isn't exclusionary. LK advised that they have a challenge system with award badges to promote walking and would discuss it further with the school. AC suggested the rewards be class based rather than for individuals as a way of avoiding exclusion. LK noted that the system doesn't currently work as a group system but is looking into ways of changing that.

LK advised that the first step was to understand from parents what the barriers to walking to school in the area currently are. Living Streets have technical team that can produce a report on accessibility in the area and will circulate some information on what can be done.

AI noted that there is currently a review being done of Clarkston road and was keen to have a discussion with LK on the issues. VP noted that she was a member of the Netherlee & Stamperland Community Council which can help contribute to the process/discussion.

## **8. P1 deferral information**

AC noted that the ER Council website still did not have any information on the P1 deferral system. It was agreed that Parent Council would write to the Council on the matter.

It was also agreed that the PC Newsletter would note that nursery parents can informally discuss their intention to defer with Nursery staff but it was noted and understood that the Nursery staff cannot advise parents on a course of action but can direct them to the appropriate council department.

## **9. AOB**

Trainers: YD advised that pupils can use any colour trainers for PE days and black shoes for non-PE days. FR noted that the information on the website currently says: "*gym uniform: Black or dark trainers.*" School to clarify. Note: on website it says (**preferably** black or dark coloured...)

P7 girls' toilets: AC advised that there have been reports of some cubicle locks not working and flushes not working. School to review and rectify. Note: Info sent to Chair as 8/9 toilets were fully working.

School handbook: FR raised query about the brief: replacement document or secondary parallel document? YD confirmed it was to be a second more concise abridged document version of the main handbook. MB advised that she was willing to help in this task.

## **ADDITIONAL POINTS TO NOTE:**

- **Next PC meeting hoped to be via Zoom on Tuesday 13 December 2022**