



**NETHERLEE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Netherlee Parent Council**  
**Meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023 @7pm Netherlee & Stamperland Church Hall**

**Attendees**

**Parent Council Members**

**School Staff**

Adam Capek (Chair)	AC
Jane Thomson	JT
Tennant Stevenson	TS
Felicity Rose	FR
Harriet Boyle	HB
Emma Gibson	EG
Michelle Borland	MB
Gillian Gray	GG
Rory McCoy	RMc
Mike Law	ML
Helen Cross	HC
Victoria Pearson	VP

Yvonne Donaldson (Head)	YD
Julie Roberts (Depute Head)	JR
Lynn Sweeney (Depute Head)	LS
Jilly Ford (PT)	JF
Jennifer McCann (PT)	JMc

**Apologies:**

Fizza Kaneez	FZ
Fiona McMillan	FM
Justin Haccius	JuH
Joanna Haw	JoH
Martin Whitehead	MW
Katie McNair	KM

**Opening**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Attendees**

Apologies were noted from Parent Council members: FZ, FM, JuH, JoH, MW & KM.

## **Approval of Minutes**

The Chair asked if there were any comments on the previous minutes dated 19/4/23. There being none, the Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted, proposed by VP and seconded by EG.

## **Headteacher Report**

YD: Positive year in school, achieved SNIP aim of “getting parents into school”.

Events have included:

Successful sports week

Open classrooms

Presentations

Diversity evening

Events have been spread across year groups, HB highlighted a concentration of events in P6 stage and school will look at this for forward planning. AC questioned if more afternoon events was possible to allow more parents to attend, the school will look at this but highlighted the short period after lunch.

A key area of the SNIP going forwards will be engagement with the Netherlee community and businesses, visits eg P1-P3 to care homes, P4 visits to Linn Park from the start of this further engagement.

YD reiterated a genuine desire to work with parents in creating the school/ nursery community. Parents have been involved extensively this year.

GIRFEC survey response was good and the school will produce a “You said, We did” summary for parent review early next session.

Awards session 2023: Gold Rights Respecting School (renewal)  
Gold Family Focus (new)  
360 Digital award level 1 (renewal)  
SportScotland Gold (awaiting renewal confirmation)  
Eco-Schools (renewal)

JT commented on the use of twitter and how this was appreciated by parents.

SNIP for next session will be launched in August and shared with parents. PC asked for a discussion on this at the first meeting – to assess how the PC can help the school achieve.

YD advised there would be further focus groups in the next session for parental input.

VP enquired if the school were aware of the Clarkston Road previously rejected planning application (for the waste land/carpark overlooking the P1 playground) going to appeal. VP also highlighted a new planning submission for a smaller building on the same site. YD confirmed she was aware and ERC Education Department were involved.

MB highlighted her enjoyment of sports week, the equality of events and the inclusion of all. YD advised this had taken hard work by numerous staff but that the children of the school had enjoyed the week, helped by the sunshine.

### **Explanation of School Report Stages**

The PC had requested an explanation of the new attainment stages on recent reports. YD advised this new reporting had been shared by ERC to be implemented across the area, after reports had been written and that the best way of explanation was the extended front page. YD advised the system was to be a more seamless process from primary to secondary and that the school had already fed back the timing wasn't good.

YD reiterated that if any PC member saw any chat on class groups regarding a subject to please encourage parents to get in touch with us in school or the PC members let us know as the school would happily send out additional information / clarify in the Friday bundle if notified.

YD suggested a discussion with the PC next session regarding the usefulness of reports. She will have a similar discussion with teachers next session too. Discussion would centre on the time taken to write reports or if a third meeting would be more beneficial. Some schools within ERC are now trialling a change. FR stated she valued reports incredibly and we must bear in mind accessibility, non-English speakers when considering change. YD will feed back any useful points from other schools who are trialling a different format/ approach.

### **P7 trip 2023 – going forwards**

Discussion opened with how successful the trip had been this year, with thanks from JT & TS whose children had been on the trip. JT especially commented on photographs uploaded to twitter for parents.

YD advised the four days had worked well and the new venue of Lochgoilhead meant all facilities were on site.

FR sought confirmation that the clash this year with an ERC music workshop had been addressed so children do not have to choose one or the other. YD advised this had been addressed.

FR questioned if the trip could take place at a different time of year to reduce cost for families. It was felt by YD, JR that May was a good time, whilst being more expensive it allowed children to enjoy a choice of all activities, which are restricted ie: no water sports / rock climbing, in wetter / colder months and potentially less enjoyable if undertaken.

YD advised that the four days this year, amended from 5 days previously to accommodate the coronation was very successful. This had reduced the cost and teachers felt the four days was sufficient for children and prevented some of the home sickness and tiredness of the last day. It was reiterated that children enjoyed activities from the moment they arrived on day one and prior

to departure on day four.

The cost for the trip in 2023 was £361 per child. YD confirmed no child was left behind because of cost and subsidy / grants / funding could be made available for any child who wished to attend.

2024 the trip will be planned for May, 4 days / 3 nights.

### **Mobile Phone Policy**

Discussion centred on an article seen by a PC member: [8 Wicklow primary schools agree 'no smartphone' code \(rte.ie\)](https://www.rte.ie/news/ireland/2023/05/08/wicklow-primary-schools-agree-no-smartphone-code/)

A synopsis was provided by RMC advising:

- Research had shown smart phone access was not necessary for children and full web access. That use of phones created social problems.
- A number of parent groups linked to school of an Irish town had voluntarily agreed to withhold smart phones from their children until secondary school.
- The voluntary policy had been well received with children playing more and less classroom disruption caused by “phone activity” out with school.
- ML seconded RMC in his summary.
- RMC concluded that the voluntary scheme had been so successful that it was being considered by national government as policy.

YD advised she had not heard of the scheme but it sounded interesting. YD highlighted that it was not school policy to enforce behaviours / parental responsibilities at home.

JT suggested a survey at P5, P6 level as to how receptive parents maybe about a voluntary policy.

AC suggested P6 and beyond was too late and it should be introduced prior to this, perhaps P3.

RMC a critical mass of voluntary sign up was required or it would not work.

It was discussed that teacher feedback within the survey of events which happen in school due to phone use maybe helpful.

Parental control on phone use was raised and YD advised a cyber session was planned for next session to help parents. YD also advised of internet safety teaching within school for pupils.

It was agreed the PC would survey in the first term and check support for the idea before presenting back.

### **AOB:**

- **Handbook**

HB updated that following delays by the PC, the school were going to update / adapt material they already had for the next session. HB apologised for the delay.

- **Vandalism**

HC raised the issue of recent vandalism at the scout hall, if the school could reinforce the link

between respect of the community their surrounding. YD advised there had been several vandalism incidents over the long weekends and particularly with the weather being good. HC requested this could be timetabled in to assemblies next year to try and prevent this type of action.

● **Goodbye – Thank You**

TS & JT expressed their thanks to the school team as their children move on, reiterating what a great school Netherlee is.

YD thanked both for their hard work, TS for stepping in as chair at a difficult time. JT for all her communications work.

FK via FR wished everyone a happy summer.

Discussion was raised about working more closely with other PC's given JT & TS moving to Williamwood and if a cluster approach maybe appropriate.

**Actions**

Action	Assignee	Notes
Discussion next session on mobile phone voluntary sign up – parent survey P3/P4.	RMC / MB	
SNIP to be presented to PC at first meeting	VP	
Discussion on reports – face to face meetings		
Add role of communications to the PC constitution		
Discussion on closer PC collaboration across the feeder cluster to Williamwood		