**Meeting Date & Venue**

Monday 18th Nov 2024, 7pm at Aberdour Primary School (APS)

**Attendees**

Gabi Sweeney (Chair), Louise Wood (Head), Gillian Cormack (Deputy Head), Dave Barratt (Councillor), Claire Stewart (Room 5 / P5), Marie Salmon (Room 2 /P2 & Room 5 P5), Andy Irvine (Room5 / P4), Elsa Weatherly-Goddard (Room 2 / P1), Lauren Smith (Nursery), Lucie Deere (Nursery), Abbey Boultbee (Nursery) Sammi Ritchie (Nursery)

**Confirmation of Minutes & Matters Arising from Last Session**

Parent Partnership

GS reiterates the need to revise the structure of the parent council to ensure fair access to representation across all classes. Lack of volunteers to be Class Representatives meant that previous parent council model was not inclusive. Parent Partnership will be an open members organisation, and all parents will be invited to attend and contribute.

Support was received from some believing the model would offer more opportunity for diverse voices to be represented and for parents to involve themselves on an ad-hoc basis dependant upon areas of interest.

Concerns were raised around future level of engagement from families and whether the new format would have the same impact. Agreed to monitor moving forwards and flag if engagement reduces.

**Head Teacher Update**

Transform Learning – Update from Fife Council

Fife Council have proposed to provide every child from P6 – S6 with an iPad to support digital skills and learning. This device will stay with the child throughout the remainder of their education. All teachers are to be provided with a device by May 2025 and all pupils by May 2026.

Questions were raised about this approach and why this was chosen to be funded rather than in classroom digital improvements such as upgrades to smart board technology.

LW advised that this is still a proposal and there will be the opportunity to provide feedback on this initiative via Fife Council. A link was shared in the newsletter on 29th November.

**School Improvement Plan**

1. Introduction of British Sign Language

British sign language (BSL) has been introduced as an L3 Language and will be taught to children from nursery Through P7. The introduction of this supports the school’s objectives to improve focus on DE&I.

Rm 6 have been involved in a pilot programme with 10 learning sessions are being delivered over Teams. APS was 1 of 4 schools across Scotland to be selected for the pilot.

1. Improvements to Tracking of Learning

A new system will be implemented to track learning progress. This system will link better with high schools and is intended to enable seamless transition of pupil learning journeys. The impact of this will be a change to the annual reports we receive in June as these will be expanded to cover progress in further specific areas including science. Further information will be provided by the school next term.

1. Building Skills for the Future

APS is a working with Skills Develop Scotland and is introducing the associated meta-skill framework. The framework consists of 12 meta skills categorised into 3 areas: self management, social intelligence & innovation. Staff are currently undergoing training to implement this approach and initial engagements with the children have been positive.

Further information is available and will be made available at later meetings.

1. Reading Capabilities

Continued focus on developing reading capabilities across the school with particular emphasis on:

* Comprehension
* Fluency
* Vocabulary

**Discussion, Phone Free School**

Parent led discussion around advocating for a “phone free school”. This is a voluntary initiative where parents “opt in” and agree not to give their children access to a phone during the time they are in primary school. The proposal highlighted the positive impact on mental health when access to social media is limited and emphasised the impact on reducing peer pressure amongst the children when there was a wider network of agreement.

LW indicated mobile phone use was not a big problem in the school as there are not a lot of children with phones. However, there are sometimes issues with WhatsApp bullying and out of school interactions impacting school behaviour.

This is a positive opt in initiative and further information is available at smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk

**School Meals**

Conversation postponed due to absence of councillor SN.

**AOB**

Funding for outdoor learning received for Exxon totalling £2,000. This will be used to complete repairs to the polytunnels.

Attendees agreed it would be useful to seek further funding for improvements to outside spaces. Funding potential to be discussed at further meetings.

Question also raised around potential to work more closely with local community groups including Climate action group.