

Session 2021-22

School: Wormit	Date of Visit: 16th May 2022
LP Members: Janet Barker (Joint HT of Lundin Mill and Kirton of Largo Primary Schools), Anna Coggins (HT of Balmullo PS), Sarah Else (Education Manager)	
<p>Overview of focus/format of Learning Partnership: (Please be very clear on focus/purpose of visit)</p> <p>The focus of the visit today has been upon 2.5 Family Learning and 2.7 Partnership. Specific areas were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for Parental Engagement pre-Covid pandemic and opportunities now restrictions are easing • Home-School Communication • Parental Consultation <p>The format of the visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual meeting with a representative group of staff • Virtual meeting with a group of parents from across the school • Virtual meeting with representatives from newly formed Parent Council • Consideration of Family Learning and Stakeholder Feedback sections of website and the raw results of a recent parental survey <p>Due to necessary date changes, Sarah Else was unable to attend on 16th May but visited the school last term and made classroom visits.</p> <p>Follow the visit, a meeting was held for all teaching staff to discuss and plan next steps. Parental Engagement post-Covid is also currently on the agenda in Nursery meetings.</p>	
<p>Strengths identified:</p> <p>Opportunities for Parental Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Staff and Parents have a shared understanding of the strengths within parental engagement pre-Covid. Parents were key partners in the life of the schools delivering after school clubs and supporting during curricular time by contributing their skills and expertise. There was a culture and ethos of parental empowerment. This was recognised in the Education Scotland Inspection of 2018. ✓ There is a shared understanding (between staff and parents) of the importance of re-establishing pre-Covid strengths before implementing change. ✓ There is a shared recognition of the opportunity presented by the recent re-establishment of the Parent Council and the easing of Covid restrictions. <p>Home-School Communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ During Focus group discussions, parents discussed Seesaw as a resource for finding out about their child's learning. They value the information shared on Seesaw and find it supports them to discuss learning with their child at home. This view was also expressed in a recent parental survey where those whose child's class uses Seesaw gave an average rating of 8.5 out of 10 in response to the question 'Seesaw is a good tool to show me what my child is learning in school. Seesaw is currently in use in Nursery-P3 and is being piloted in P7. ✓ During Focus group discussions, parents discussed the weekly information link as a means of school communicating with them. Parents find the link helpful over receiving individual emails through the week as all information is in one place, they know to expect it and can return to it. This view was also expressed in the parental survey where the responders gave an average rating of 9.2 out of 10 to the question 'I find the Weekly Information Link easy to use' and 'The Weekly Information Link is a good way to receive information'. Through the focus group discussions, parents expressed a view that the weekly information tends not to include information about achievements and learning which was previously included in the paper monthly/termly newsletter – they would like to receive this as well. 	

- ✓ During Focus Group discussions, parents discussed the volume of emails and there was a recognition that this has improved to a more manageable level. It was also recognised that when there was a high volume of emails coming from school, it was (at least in part) due to the information school needed to send about Covid. This view was also reflected in the recent parental survey where most parents (87%) agreed with the statement 'I get about the right amount of emails/all the information I need.'
- ✓ The Parent Council have recently set up a Facebook page and are keen to use it to enhance communication between parents and between school and parents.
- ✓ The newly formed Parent Council members were noted to be enthusiastic and proactive as well as being open to guidance and partnership working with school staff.
- ✓ There is a shared understanding between staff and parents regarding the importance of re-establishing relationships across the whole school post-Covid and of the importance of face-to-face events. There is also an understanding of the needs of the whole community – those who are well established in the school and those who have come during Covid.
- ✓ The Family Learning pages on the website contain useful signposting but it is generic information and there is a need (post Covid) for parents to have face-to-face contact with teachers to build relationships and ensure specific information about learning. The Family Learning pages may continue to be helpful to signpost parents to resources. In the recent parental survey, the majority of parents (57%) who left a comment about the Family Learning pages commented positively but the other 43% indicated they would prefer specific information about their child.

Parental Consultation:

- ✓ Through focus group discussions, parents recognise that they are consulted about the life and work of the school, but they stated that they were not always clear on how the feedback gathered was responded to. The Learning Partners could see that this information is available on the school website (and it was signposted to parents at the time of publication) but there may be a need for school to share this more overtly.
- ✓ Parents took the opportunity of the focus group discussion to express a view that they would like to see a greater whole school focus on sustainability/climate change.
- ✓ In focus group discussions, parents identified positive communication during Covid and support from school to resolve issues as strengths.

Planned next steps:

- To hold face-to-face parent/teacher meetings in session 2022/23
- To draw up a calendar of parental engagement events for session 2022/23 that reflects pre-Covid work
- Continue to use Seesaw in Nursery-P3 and pilot it in P7 with consideration as to whether to extend the approach through the school
- Ensure information about significant events and learning is shared with the whole parent body to build community
- Plan a piece of whole school work on the theme of sustainability and climate change in session 2022/23
- Advertise Parent Council Facebook Page to whole parent body and embed it into the school website
- Continue to re-establish links with parents post-Covid to enhance curricular and extra-curricular provision
- Support and work in partnership with the newly re-established Parent Council

Report completed by Lucy Jess

Headteacher

Sent to Education Manager Sarah Else

Date 27/5/22