

## **Pollokshields Primary School Parent Council 28.10.21**

### **In Attendance:**

Kathryn Carey  
Amy McAnish  
Nathalie Ouriachi  
Rachel Smith  
Sam Miller  
Kate Deeming  
Fleur Gayet  
Laura Piacentini  
Kirsty Chapman  
Fozia Asmat  
Heather Foster  
Michelle Smith  
Taz Ahmed  
Samina Akhtar  
Saskia Gildawie

### **Apologies:**

Karen Brown

### **Agenda Items:**

1) Rachel welcomed new members and gave an overview of how the Pollokshields Primary School Parent Council operates.

We are an informal group of parents who give whatever time we can manage at any given time. The What's App group is sometimes busy, sometimes quiet. We recognise that everyone has busy lives and many responsibilities outside of the Parent Council. Family and health come first and participation in the Parent Council should not be a stressful experience. If it is, then maybe we as a collective are trying to do too much. It should hopefully be an enjoyable experience!

We hold meetings roughly monthly and they tend to be fairly informal. The time depends on availability. Children are welcome which means that in person meetings can be mayhem but are also fun. We ask that Parent Council members try to attend meetings or send apologies. In the constitution it says that if a member does not attend/send apologies to three consecutive meetings they can be asked to leave but that rarely happens.

There will periodically be requests for members to volunteer to attend training sessions, such as First Aid Training or recruitment training (for a new Headteacher). We also ask for volunteers from within the Parent Council to help at school events.

We communicate with each other via What's App outside of meetings. There is a Parent Council gmail account to which all members will be given access. We also have a facebook group and a section on the school website, onto which the minutes of our meetings are uploaded. The school is also fantastic at sending out communications on our behalf.

As we are representing the school community it is important that we talk to other parents so that we can make sure that their views are heard. We should be forming connections within the Parent Council and within the wider school community. We organise events that facilitate this. It is therefore very important that we remember that the Parent Council is not all about business, it is meant to be fun!

## 2) Introductions.

Everyone introduced themselves and said a little about their children and why they decided to be a member of the Parent Council.

## 3) Office Holders.

We agreed on the following office holders for the current academic year:

Chair: Fozia Asmat and Saskia Gildawie

Vice-chair: Nathalie Ouriachi

Secretary: Kathryn Carey

Treasurer: Rachel Smith and Sam Miller

## 4) Headteacher Report

Michelle talked us through the Standards and Qualities Report, which highlights what the school has achieved over the past year and the ways in which it can improve. She will be making this available to parents once it has been finalised. Here is a brief overview:

### Strengths:

The ethos and culture of the school.

The nurturing atmosphere and how well the staff know the children.

It is rare to find a school with such good behaviour.

Many parents contribute a lot of time and effort to the school.

The local partnerships, such as with the allotment, the Hidden Gardens and the Bowling Green, all of which facilitate outdoor learning.

How the school uses digital learning to support rather than replace the teacher.

Organising specialists to come into the school, such as Art Therapists and for music tuition.

The second lockdown was deemed far more successful in terms of communication and the school are proud to have got everyone onto a digital platform. The school also worked with Morrisons at that time to help families.

Improvements/ aims:

They want to develop a better reading culture and encourage reading for enjoyment throughout the school.

Increase consistency in subjects such as literacy and numeracy.

Using more concrete materials (props) for numeracy.

All teachers need to have a shared understanding of different levels of attainment within Pollokshields Primary and across Scotland. Management are working out how best to assess children.

Make paperwork and procedures more streamlined and transparent.

Reintroduce nurture provision. Nurture as a whole school and more consistent approach.

Personalised support for children who have a barrier to their learning. Organising for needs to be met by providers from outside of the school as appropriate.

Creating the right conditions for children and their families to thrive.

Support families better with learning at home and teaching families how to support their children with their learning.

5) Objectives for the year.

Parent Council members were asked to post ideas in the What's App group prior to the next meeting.

6) First Aid Training.

One place was still available on the First Aid course in November. Samina put herself forward for this and Rachel said that she would send her details.

7) Winter Arts Planning.

Taz gave an update. She informed us that many teachers have offered to help. She said that it would be a smaller event than usual this year and that it would be held outside. Reindeer have been booked already and selection boxes purchased. They are considering using the bikeshed on the Herriet Street side for Santa's Grotto and are planning a Winter Wonderland trail.

Funding has been applied for as this will require additional lighting. There will possibly be stalls for food on the Keir street side and maybe an outdoor photobooth but these are still in the early stages of planning. To keep numbers low, tickets will need to be bought in advance for a particular time. Wristbands could be used to show which time slot each family has been allotted. We talked about the possibility of asking the Bellaband to perform and about asking parents with relevant skills, such as musicians to put themselves forward. Kate offered to help with planning performances and she is working on a performance herself with some of the children. We briefly discussed setting up a sub-committee of parents and teachers to plan the event together.

#### 8) Safer Streets.

Amy talked about her meeting with Lorna Young, the Council's Roadsafe Officer. Lorna gave us lots of ideas for actions that the school can take to make our roads safer and our children more aware, for example children writing parking tickets for drivers who park on the zigzags and making posters. A P6 class will be taking this on.

Nathalie mentioned that she has spoken with parents who haven't noticed the signs. We asked if the school could again communicate with the parents about this. Amy said that Lorna talked about putting sleeves on the signs and on posts leading up to them. She confirmed that we now have the little people for the zigzags on indefinite loan from the Council.

#### 9) Apparel Xchange.

Michelle and Amy have been on a training course with Apparel Xchange. They have had communication from Hillhead Primary School who are happy to tell us how they run it and answer any questions.

#### 10) Next meeting.

We discussed availability and whether we should hold a meeting open to parents from outside of the Parent Council soon. The point was raised that all meetings should be open to all parents, not just to members of the Parent Council. The possibility of using the Scout hut was mentioned. We decided, however, that we would hold all meetings on Zoom as that would make it easier to invite parents from outside of the Parent Council but hold socials in person.

Date and time TBC. Chairs will gather availability from Parent Council members and schedule meetings for the year ahead.