

Wallacewell Primary School Parent Council Annual Report 2023/24

Overview

The Parent Council is a committee that acts as a link between the Parent Forum – all the parents and carers who have a child at the school – and the school itself.

School year 2023/24 saw the formation of a new committee following the resignation of the previous committee at the end of school year 2022/23, the adoption of a new constitution, the creation of a new action plan, and the establishment of a new bank account.

The Parent Council was, to all intents and purposes, starting from scratch.

The Parent Council held nine formal meetings throughout the year and a few informal zoom calls. The latter involved discussions related to planning for activities such as the summer parties.

The first meeting of the year saw the following members of the Parent Forum elected as committee members/office bearers of the Parent Council: Emily Clarke (Chair); Ross Nisbet (Vice Chair); Caryn and Elizabeth Smith (Joint Secretaries); Valentina Vagka (Treasurer).

Ross Nisbet assumed the position of Chair on 19 February following Emily's resignation with Caryn Smith being appointed Vice Chair by the committee. Denise White was appointed Fundraising Coordinator by the committee on 29 April.

The Parent Council liaised with parents, the school, Glasgow City Council (Education Department), local councillors from all political parties, and other important stakeholders including Robroyston Community Council, Barmulloch Community Development Company, and Police Scotland during the year on several issues (see below)

The Parent Council believes that it performed its duties to a good standard during the year but welcomes feedback from the Parent Forum.

The committee all agreed during the year that visibility was an area that required improvement. To that end, it set up a Facebook page and implemented drop-in sessions to increase visibility and reach. This will continue to be an area of focus for the year ahead.

Key issues that the Parent Council was consulted on, informed of, and responded to during school year 2023/24

1. School capacity
2. Parking and road safety
3. Condition of the school building (inc. modular accommodation)
4. State of the school pitch
5. Transition to secondary school

1. Wallacewell Primary School opened in 2017 with a capacity of 217. Capacity was increased with the construction of modular accommodation (the huts) in 2009 and 2010.

Now, in 2024, the school has a roll of 411. The Primary 1 cap was increased this year from 62 to 85 – 72 Primary 1 pupils are now on the roll – and the number of classes was increased from 15 to 16.

This has led to building works resulting in the ICT Suite being halved to create a new staffroom and Creative Enquiry space, the old intervention space being used as the 16th classroom and the old staffroom being used as an intervention area.

This issue has been raised in email communication and face-to-face meetings with representatives of Glasgow City Council and local councillors. The position of the Council is that the school has not reached maximum capacity. It also appears unfazed by ongoing housebuilding in the school

catchment area and reports that consent has been granted for a further 300 homes in the area over and above current construction.

The Parent Council is still in dialogue with the school, Council, and other stakeholders on this issue.

2. There has been a growing number of complaints from the Parent Forum relating to dangerous driving and parking on and around the road leading to the school and the small overflow car park/drop-off and pick-up area.

We have a situation where the narrow access road to the school is being obstructed in mornings and afternoons, including areas marked 'keep clear.' The same thing is happening in the overflow car park/drop-off and pick-up area where cars are being parked on pedestrian crossings.

There have also been instances of cars parking on pavements and grass verges.

This behaviour has led to several near misses between kids and cars and at least one instance a few years ago of a child being knocked over by a car due to the driver being unsuspected by parked vehicles.

School staff and parents have tried highlighting the dangers to the owners of the vehicles, but their complaints are often met with derision and/or torrents of abuse.

The school and the Parent Council has reached out to Police Scotland which has visited to help with the issue, but it is understandably unable to provide support daily. And when the Police leaves, the instances of poor, selfish and dangerous behaviour reappear.

The Parent Council has supported the school in its efforts to have new markings painted around the school and highlighted the issue to the school's Quality Improvement Officer.

Again, we are still in dialogue with all relevant stakeholders on the issue, with the matters of new signage, the enforcement of traffic laws and a redesign of the access road and the overflow car park/drop-off and pick-up area our priorities.

3. Pressure applied by the Parent Council proved instrumental in Glasgow City Council conducting an inspection and subsequent Summary Condition Report of the school.

The report concluded that the main school building, the modular accommodation, and school grounds were generally in good condition. A small number of repairs were recommended in the report that have now been completed.

With regards to the modular accommodation, it was noted during a meeting between representatives of Glasgow City Council and Robroyston Community Council, which the Chair of the Parent Council attended at the invitation of the Community Council, that they are permanent structures that are well within their expected lifespans.

There was one notable exception to the 'generally good condition' rating...see below...

4. The Summary Condition Report concluded that the school pitch is at the end of its life and needs replaced. This was also accepted by Council representatives at the meeting mentioned above.

The Council said in no uncertain terms at that meeting that it currently cannot afford to replace the pitch and suggested that Section 75 contributions collected by the Council from housebuilders should be used to fund a replacement.

The Parent Council believes this is tantamount to an abandonment by the Council of its responsibility to keep our children safe and well – particularly when the pitch acts as the muster point for our children at times of emergency – and is still in dialogue with it about a solution.

We have also begun the process of figuring out whether Section 75 contributions can be used for this purpose and how it can be accessed but have noted opposition from members of the community at

meetings of the Robroyston Community Council to the suggestion that the money could be used for this purpose.

5. The Parent Council is aware that the distance from the areas served by the school and the catchment high school, Smithycroft Secondary School, and the alleged lack of a regular and reliable bus service to Smithycroft is a cause of anxiety for parents and children transition from primary to secondary school.

Last year saw us issuing a questionnaire to parents with the aim of convincing Glasgow City Council of the need for a school bus to Smithycroft – something else the Council said it couldn't afford during the aforementioned meeting – but appreciate that it was too late in the school year to have any material impact.

It is the intention of the Parent Council to start that process earlier this year.

All the above issues will remain the key areas of focus, or 'grand challenges', for the Parent Council in the year ahead but we would welcome feedback from the Parent Forum on any other issues they think we should address.

Fundraising

School year 2023/24 saw the Parent Council contribute funds to the following:

- Selection boxes for all pupils at Christmas
- Cadbury Creme Eggs for all pupils at Easter
- Leavers' hoodies for all Primary 7 pupils

Funds raised during the year ahead will again go towards selection boxes, Creme Eggs, and hoodies, but we would welcome feedback from the Parent Forum on anything else it thinks we should be contributing to.

Membership

Every member of the Parent Forum should consider themselves to be an extended member of the Parent Council and are welcome to attend all Parent Council meetings unless the committee calls a closed meeting due to discussions of a sensitive nature.

The committee is composed of five office bearers currently, but we are keen to hear from the Parent Forum if they believe that any other areas require representation.

We will be looking for volunteers as we ramp up our fundraising activities and have recently welcomed and received help from input from parents and carers on matters including translation services and tech support.

Outside of meetings and drop-in sessions, the Parent Council can be contacted on email via wallacewellparentcouncil@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Meeting agendas and minutes can be accessed via the Wallacewell Primary School Glow Blog: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/wallacewellprimary/category/parent-council-news/>

Our Facebook page can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61561288283924>

Dates for all Parent Council meetings during school year 2024/25

- Monday 26 August 2024
- Monday 23 September 2024 (incorporating AGM)
- Monday 21 October 2024
- Monday 18 November 2024
- Monday 16 December 2024

- Monday 13 January 2025
- Monday 10 February 2025
- Monday 10 March 2025
- Monday 28 April 2025
- Monday 2 June 2025

Wallacewell Primary School Parent Council Accounts 2023/24

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD £0 (new account)

INCOME

Glasgow City Council funding	£400
Chuck it in a bucket	£208.39
Christmas activities	£251
Summer discos	£623.85

Total Income £1,483.24

EXPENDITURE

Selection boxes	£400
Easter Creme Eggs	£80
P7 hoodies	£270
Summer discos	£193.43

Total Expenditure £943.43

Closing Balance @ 1 July 2024 £539.81

Valentina Vagka
Treasurer