

MONDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2022 @ 6:30pm by TEAMs
GREENWOOD ACADEMY
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Present: K Hegarty – Head Teacher, C McKinlay – Secretary, C Kennedy – Treasurer,
 Mrs MacDougall - Depute Head Teacher, Miss M Fullerton - Guidance Teacher and 5 Parents/Carers

	Action
<p>1. Welcome – K Hegarty Mrs Hegarty welcomed all to the meeting. M Fullerton, Guidance Teacher and P MacDougall, Depute Head Teacher joining us to discuss Mental Health & Wellbeing and Greenwood Homework Policy.</p> <p>2. Last meeting Minutes 5/9/2022 approved and available on https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/na/greenwoodac/</p> <p>3. Treasurer Report – C Kennedy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Balance - £1,762.24 with 2 outstanding cheques. ➤ Departments will be encouraged to put forward requests for support with projects. Mrs Hegarty will raise this with Faculty Leaders. ➤ North Ayrshire Council due to send us this year’s allowance. ➤ S5 pupils involved with the participatory budget offering clubs within school. Funding to support the projects and clubs would be helpful. <p>4. Mental Health & Wellbeing – M Fullerton This topic was requested by a parent. Miss Fullerton introduced herself and her background in Greenwood. Having worked on projects involving support for mental health and wellbeing she has created a resource which can be delivered face-to-face or online. This gives opportunities for parents/carers and young people to explore strategies to help their own mental health. Included in the learning resource leaflet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Practical strategies to support ➤ Links with educational side of things ➤ Maintaining positive mental health ➤ Helps to recognise the signs and when to be concerned, both psychological and emotional. ➤ Scottish Mental Health First Aid – useful contact ➤ Nurture – what is a supportive environment? ➤ Activities to support your own and your child’s mental health ➤ Workbook booklet to tap into ➤ Opportunities for training – sessions broken into 2 parts 10th and 17th November, the training is quite intense and involves normalising discussions. All parents/carers invited through Groupcall and Twitter, please spread the word. ➤ Impacts of Covid on our children discussed ➤ Monday 10th October is World Mental Health Day. Ambassadors will raise awareness as they did during May’s Mental Health week. Materials are provided across the school in the form of lanyards, posters and mental health resources. ➤ Some staff, including Miss Fullerton, have completed “See Me” and LIAM training provided by Education Scotland Mental Health. 	<p>KH</p>

- Some S5 & S6 pupils expressed an interest and will be out training on 31st October, following this 6 members of staff will be completing the training.
- The group of senior pupils discussed leadership ideas for example alternative spaces for pupils who are struggling and a rota system to check on them to talk about mental health. Signposting if anything of concern and liaising with staff. This is a whole school approach.

Mrs Hegarty thanked Miss Fullerton for her interesting talk.

5. Homework Policy – P MacDougall

Mrs MacDougall introduced herself, S1 & S5 Year Head. She gave a slide show to discuss the following in regard to Greenwood's homework policy:

- Change in how we experience home learning
- Overseeing homework policy
- Platforms in use and pulling it all together
- Feedback from Faculty Leaders – sharing and highlighting the key points
- Confidence to address any skills gaps
- Satchel One, our homework online diary platform. Parents/carers have the log in and can have a look to see the expectations of staff and pupils. It has a “to do list”.
- Google Classroom, another platform, used by teachers
- Homework forms evidence for teachers
- Our school values central to this and pupils develop their skills
- Support and engagement in learning at home takes variety of forms and Guidance staff have conversations.
- Prior to Covid lockdown we used “Show my Homework”
- Not all families have access to IT facilities, we have devices that can be given to pupils if this is the case.
- Principles of good practice provide a high standard of consolidation – appropriate to level that the young person is working at.
- Recognition when they are working well through Merits – communicating praise to the parent/carer.
- When homework not satisfactory a demerit may be given. This is not a punishment but a means to encourage and intervene so that homework /learning is completed.
- Family Learning Hub – expectations on how to access support
- Good homework routine – conversations with parents/carers.
- Revision – more of a focus for Senior phase with Guidance staff providing a study timetable and advice on how to manage time.
- Sources of support from staff – homework can be done at lunchtime instead of at night.

Questions:

- Hugh Gilbert asked if teachers could post class tests on Satchel One so that pupils/parents/carers can see them. Mrs MacDougall thought this was a good, helpful point and some departments do this already. She can add this in.
- Amanda Jones asked about messaging facilities and if parents can talk to specific teachers about homework. Mrs MacDougall answered that parents have to be logged in to use messaging facility and Guidance Teachers are first port of call for any issues.

Mrs Hegarty thanked Mrs MacDougall and said the Homework Policy had been shared with Faculty Leaders to give expectations across each Year Group.

6. HT Update – K Hegarty

Mrs Hegarty gave a slide show to discuss the following:

➤ Harvest Collection

Mr Cockerill (Faculty Lead for Health & Wellbeing) has organised a collection of food at the front door each morning this week. All donations gratefully received and will be redistributed to the Community. No chilled or frozen food please.

➤ School Show

“Matilda” will be staged in school on 15th & 16th November. A great way for us to bring school together.

➤ Digital Literacy Week

This important life skill being raised with pupils this week. Use in a positive way being celebrated with Education Scotland. Communications and work will be online via:

- Glow
- Email
- OneDrive
- Glow Blogs
- Other Apps
- Microsoft Forms used to gather views

➤ Modern Languages – 28th September

Importance of learning languages by adding skills and opening opportunities highlighted to new S1 by pupils in previous year group.

➤ Maths Week Scotland – 26th September – 2nd October

Thanks to Maths Department for giving all pupils the opportunity to take part in this national celebration.

➤ Attendance Focus

There are 190 days in school every year. Young people can only thrive if they are in school learning. Whilst the majority of parents/carers tell us reasons for absences we still have to flag (every 6 weeks) any attendances falling below 90%. This is a North Ayrshire Council policy. Over the course of a year below 90% means a child has missed 19 days of learning. 80% means missing 38 days. This becomes concerning very quickly. Some pupils are below 70% which means they have missed 47 days. Monitoring attendance, Guidance staff will have face-to-face meetings or make phone calls to work closely with parents/carers to offer support. A covering letter went out to all today to explain these 90% attendance letters.

➤ School Engagement

Last year Senior Managers from North Ayrshire Council visited Greenwood. This year we have 2 days on 12th and 13th October. They will be looking at inclusion, areas for improvement and quality. They will follow with a report and feedback. Mr J Doherty from Largs Academy will also attend. Greenwood hasn't had a full inspection for a number of years.

➤ **Cost of the school day**

PEF Fund supplied £5,000 to buy school uniforms. More equipment and uniforms will be purchased, this is ongoing. Councillor Marie Burns is looking at all of our approaches. Councillor Larson requested a visit also. Happy to share our approaches with the Councillors.

➤ **Staffing**

- Vacancy for English post filled. Mrs L Ashe got the full-time post, her 0.4 post will be advertised.
- Long-term and shorter absences covered by teachers and supply staff
- Tamsen Collins started today in our SSR base which is now fully staffed

➤ **Stagecoach Bus Update**

Many conversations have been had with the commercial transport company in regard to the slightly reduced service and issues arising. Stagecoach are keen to engage and a meeting is being arranged by Mrs C Doig, S3 Year Head responsible for transport.

Some parents mentioned concerns other parents see an improvement.

Mr A McClelland is aware about the concerns for health and safety of pupils.

7. Any Other Business & Any Questions

- Mr H Gilbert raised the issue of behaviour in school, saying this being fed back to him as a parent as getting much worse. With disruption/rowdiness in classes and some noisy pupils others are finding it hard to concentrate. He doesn't think the merits-demerits system is improving behaviour. Another parent voiced the same concerns.

Mrs Hegarty explained that she takes this issue on board, there is no doubt since the Covid lockdown some pupils are finding it difficult and have become disengaged. This is replicated across Scotland. Some young people are in crisis and child protection and social work departments are involved. Children First and Barnardos come in to school to help re-engage pupils. Taking some pupils out of classes, providing behavioural support through SSR for them has given respite for pupils and teachers. Detentions and reflective exercises are also given out.

- Any other topics of concern from Parent Council please email Mrs Hegarty.
- Chairperson nomination still required, anyone interested please email Mrs Hegarty or Secretary, Mrs McKinlay.

8. Date of Next Meeting – Monday, 7th November 2022 at 6:30pm on TEAM's