

Calderhead HS Parent Council

Thursday 1st October 2026



	Actioned By:
Present Jennifer Di Mambro (JDM), Jemma Millar (JM), Colin Shearer (CS), Graeme Russell (GR), Lisa McAllister (LM), Lorraine Ivory (LI), Cllr Martin McCulloch (MMc), Cristina Radulescu (CR), Michael Murphy (MMu)	
Apologies Kirsteen Boyd (KB), Moira Williams (MW), Edward Ford (EF), Denise Dickson (DD), Cllr Clare Quigley (CQ), Cllr John Jo Leckie (JL), Cllr Margaret Hughes (MH)	
Approval of Previous Minutes The minutes of the previous Parent Council meeting were approved as an accurate record, proposed by LM and seconded by MM.	
Welcome JM welcomed all members to the October meeting. She acknowledged the excellent contribution made by Audra during her tenure and expressed her gratitude for all she had done for the school. JM noted that she would bring her own approach to chairing the meetings and would do so to the best of her ability. She highlighted two points in particular: 1. At times, multiple conversations had taken place simultaneously. JM requested that only one conversation take place at a time to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to contribute and be heard. 2. JM advised that she may actively invite individual members to share their views during discussions. She emphasised that members should not feel they are being singled out, as her intention is simply to ensure that everyone's thoughts and opinions are heard.	
Headteachers Report JDM welcomed the appointment of Jemma Millar as Chairperson, Edward Ford as Vice Chairperson and Colin Shearer as Secretary thanking them for taking on their respective roles. JDM introduced Graeme Russell, Deputy Head Teacher (DHT) for S5 and S6, as the staff representative for the October meeting. Staffing JDM advised that Barry Rose has been recruited as Acting Senior Janitor at Coltness High School. She noted that Barry would be a significant loss to Calderhead High School and that it was unlikely the school would receive a replacement. Accommodation JDM advised that the outdoor classroom is now complete, with GR noting that it had first been requested four years ago. JDM confirmed that the fixtures and fittings are complete; however, clarification is still awaited regarding responsibility for fitting out the interior. GR is following this up.	

GR advised that the outdoor classroom could be used to support courses such as construction, with JDM adding that it has the potential to accommodate a variety of different learning stations.

The outdoor classroom is a North Lanarkshire Council (NLC) resource. JDM and GR are encouraging other schools to visit Calderhead and make use of the facility. This could also benefit Calderhead by providing young people with opportunities to develop practical skills on site, reducing the need to attend other schools.

Parental Engagement

JDM advised that the school newsletter would be issued on October 2nd.

JDM advised that, as part of efforts to increase parental engagement, parents would be encouraged to complete an online survey at the S4 Parents' Evening on October 27th. School Captains will approach S4 parents and provide a QR code giving access to the survey. The survey will focus on identifying useful support for parents in relation to attainment.

JDM advised that a member of the office staff has volunteered to remain after school to assist parents with registering for the Parent Portal. This is currently being targeted at the S1, S2 and S3 Parents' Evenings, with the possibility of also providing support at the S4 Parents' Evening.

JDM advised that the school intends to launch the online booking system at the S1 Parents' Evening, allowing parents to book appointments directly rather than relying on S1 pupils to arrange appointments.

GR advised that he is working with a group of staff on a number of areas, one of which is the development of a parental guide.

JDM advised that the school is reviewing which social media channels to use, with Instagram being considered. LM noted that her school had been advised by NLC that Instagram could not be used.

JM asked what percentage of parents had registered for the Parental Portal. JDM advised that she would obtain this information from Kerry and provide an update. JDM reiterated that office staff are available to support parents who require assistance registering for the Parent Portal.

NLC Attainment Review

JDM advised that the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will meet with Chief Officer James McParland on Monday, October 5th, PM, to review attainment for session 2025/26, including areas such as exclusions and attendance. JDM will provide an update at the next Parent Council meeting.

JDM also advised that Senior EFM's Jacqueline Burton and Michelle O'Halleron will meet with her on Monday, October 5th, AM, to discuss preparations for the HMIE re-visit..

Fundraising

GR advised that the St Andrew's Hospice School Liaison Manager had confirmed that Calderhead High School has raised £46,248.77 for the hospice to date. GR has set a target of reaching £50,000 this year and noted that S5 pupils had been particularly keen to help achieve this.

GR provided an update on fundraising activities, including:

- The 6K event, which has already taken place.
- An S1 Tinto Hill climb.
- An S5/S6 Ben Nevis climb.

A Children in Need event, planned for the end of November and led by S6 pupils. GR noted that this event is well received across all year groups. A Staff vs Senior Pupils football match, organised by the Prom Committee, which raised over £300 towards the cost of the Prom. GR advised that the school is working to reduce the stigma associated with using donated school uniforms, with greater emphasis being placed on the environmental benefits of reusing clothing. JDM and GR advised that the Shop of Happiness has been successful. JDM will share information on available resources for use across the school's social media channels. GR advised that S6 pupils are involved in work around the Cost of the School Day. JM suggested using a QR code to make it easier for parents to access information about the support and resources available, including the Shop of Happiness. GR advised that pupils are actively exploring a range of initiatives, including fundraising for charities, organising their own events, supporting Cost of the School Day activities and approaching shops regarding donations to the school. GR highlighted the creative approach being taken by the young people and the positive work taking place across the school.	
Parent Council Updates JM advised that she has taken over administration of the Parent Council Facebook page from Audra and noted that 20 new members had joined, an encouraging increase in parental engagement. JM also advised that she had been contacted by parents who had expressed an interest in attending Parent Council meetings. It was agreed that the Parent Council would use social media to encourage greater parental engagement and promote school activities and events. JM will update the Facebook page with information on upcoming events, such as flu vaccinations and the Christmas Fayre, and will promote a diary of events. There were no objections to this approach. JM encouraged Parent Council members to like and share posts to help increase their reach. JDM advised that a Positive Destinations event will be held on the same evening as the S4 Parents' Evening, with representatives from universities, colleges and employers in attendance to provide advice and guidance to pupils and parents. LM mentioned the EduSpot app. GR also highlighted an app designed to block notifications during periods of study. JM advised that the Easyfundraising account has been transferred from Audra to herself and clarified that all money raised through Easyfundraising is paid directly to the school and does not pass through the Parent Council. JM advised that she had discussed the position of Treasurer with JDM. As the Parent Council does not currently organise fundraising events directly, but instead supports events organised by pupils and the school, the need for a Treasurer was discussed. The consensus was to continue with the existing arrangement and not appoint a Treasurer at this time. The Parent Council will continue to support fundraising activities organised by pupils and the school. The date for the Christmas Fayre was discussed, with a Saturday morning proposed, potentially December 5th or December 12th.	
Any Other Business The Christmas Fayre was discussed further, with JM highlighting the lack of seating at previous events. JM suggested that a seating area be provided next to the planned Grotto.	

Actions			
Ref	Action	Owner	
A01	Obtain the percentage of parents currently registered for the Parent Portal from Kerry and provide an update.	JDM	
A02	Provide an update following the NLC attainment review at the next Parent Council meeting.	JDM	
A03	Share information about the resources available through the Shop of Happiness for publication across the school's social media channels.	JDM	
A04	Update the Parent Council Facebook page with upcoming school events, including flu vaccinations and the Christmas Fayre, and promote a diary of events.	JM	
A05	Like and share Parent Council social media posts to help increase their reach and encourage greater parental engagement.	Parent Council Members	
Date of Next Meeting			
The next Parent Council meeting will take place on Thursday, November 12th, 2026 at 18:00. JM thanked everyone for attending and brought the meeting to a close.			