

Whitelees Primary School and Nursery Class

Parent Council Meeting - Minutes

Thursday 5th February 2026 – 18.00



IN ATTENDANCE:

Dawn Macpherson, Elaine Stewart, Deborah Brass, Emily Sands, Danielle Scott, Kirsty Bowman, Kirsty Mackenzie and Sandi Rankin

WPS & NC- Carol Stewart, Acting Head Teacher, Gioia McAuley, Acting Head Teacher and Amanda Ronald, Clerk

Apologies: Alix Menzies, Lynsey Wright, Aileen Lewis, Susan Graham, Katie McGarvie

Minutes agreed by: Deborah Brass

Minutes seconded by: Elaine Stewart

The meeting was held in school and hosted by Emily Sands. The meeting was started with a warm welcome to everyone and a thank you to everyone for attending.

CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

Hi all, thanks for attending tonight's meeting, we have apologies from Susan, Alix, Aileen and Lynsey, and of course Katie who we all congratulate on the birth of beautiful baby Brodie.

A special welcome back to Mrs Murdoch, Mrs Stewart and Mrs McAuley did a fantastic job while she was away but we are very glad to have you back where you belong, as are the children.

We've had a busy quarter since our last meeting in October, with the Christmas Fayre being the highlight. The Fayre was a great success, I'll let Elaine give the figures but we had all the usual stalls, a wonderful Santa's grotto in the nest for a change this year, and despite a last minute change of plans with the cafe, we managed to pull it off and nobody went without the traditional hot dogs and donuts. Thanks to all involved; our PC members, PC family members who got roped into all sorts, our volunteers and our junior elves.

It was great to have the Glee club running activities this year too, raising funds for the Glee competition next week. We wish the Glee team all the best and I know Glee parents can't wait to see the performance next Thursday.

Looking forward, we've got a spring disco to plan in March and some money to spend on the children's wish lists, namely some play dough and resources for the older children, and some playground games for the better weather.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Starting Balance - **£4134.38**

In	Out
£244.49 (Disco Profit)	£244.49 (Disco Stock)
£2,594.87 (Fayre Profit)	£340.82 (Christmas Fayre stock)
£345.33 (Show Profit)	£145.07 (Christmas show stock)
£316.90 (Card Profit)	

Total in bank to date: **£7413.51**

Commitments agreed to already

Playdoh (Infant end of the school) - £TBC

Resources (Senior end of the school) - £TBC

Games (outdoor area) - £TBC

Glee T-shirts - £100.00

Santa Gift - £30.00

Autum Disco

This was very popular across the full school – events were ticketed at £3 and we also raised funds from the very popular pocket money stall. This was an inclusive event as always, the GIFT fund was used when needed.

Profit over all: **£678.71**

Christmas cards

Money raised from the sale of Christmas card and other items from drawing the kids done in class. This is a lovely annual tradition that allows people to purchase a keepsake item. This year we moved to online ordering which seemed much better overall.

Profit: **£316.90**

Christmas fayre

Amazing event held in the school by the parent council open to all the community to attend. Money raised from a number of stalls. This was an inclusive event with a free visit to Santa and a gift for each child.

Profit: **£2,594.87**

Christmas shows

Stall ran by member of the parent council selling a range of drink, snacks and stock from the school fayre.

Profit: **£345.33**

HEAD TEACHERS REPORT

We had a successful end to the year with an amazing show. We had the Salvation Army join us for our Christmas Service and we showcased our vision, values and aims which we will continue to embed this year.

We have had a busy start to the year with all classes taking part in our annual Burns assembly. Latest and best week is this week, and our children have been working very hard and Parents' Night booking opened this week for our Parents' Night on 5th March 2026.

We had the Inspectors from HMIE in last week which was a very positive experience for the school. The report will take approximately 12 weeks to be processed, and this will be published on the HMIE website.

Staffing

We have had some staffing changes with Laura Murdoch back as Head Teacher, Carol Stewart and Gioia McAuley will continue in their current roles until 9th March when they will return to their Principal teacher posts with Louise MacKenzie returning to her role as Class Teacher. Ellis Smith has left due to maternity cover ending with Paige Forrest and Aimee McKenzie taking over as Class Teacher for primary 2.

Transition

We had some new starts in our nursery at the beginning of January and they are settling well. Our Primary 1 transition will be starting in March, and dates have been sent out to parents via email. We have chosen times after school to enable us to give both children and parents our full attention. This means it will be a quieter environment for the children and an opportunity for adults to meet the staff. The last transition day will be during the school day as children and parents will attend a school lunch. The Parent Council were asked for a volunteer to come in on that day and speak to the parents.

P7 enhanced transition for identified pupils started this week. The high school organise this. Universal transition events have not been organised yet. These are normally dates in June with a 2/3 day timetable trial run at Cumbernauld Academy. The feedback is that this event is very helpful for the children.

Our annual outward-bound trip for the primary 7 children has been moved from Strathclyde Park to Palacerigg Country Park this year. Information and consent forms have been sent out and a payment fund has been set up on Ipayimpact. Other schools have already attended Palacerigg and the feedback has been really positive. We will attend the same week as Kildrum Primary School which is week commencing 20th April.

Improvement Plan

We will continue to fully embed our Vision, Values and Aims this year. The feedback from HMIE said that our children know what they are and we use these for restorative conversations. Our next step is to develop our curriculum rationale. We promote one meta skill each week and encourage children to take photos if they recognise that they've achieved the meta skill.

The school has worked with Carol Murdoch from Love Outdoors for a couple of years now for outdoor learning and she has asked for some of our lessons plans to include in her programme. Our annual Power Off and Learn Outdoors day is usually held over two days but this year will potentially be condensed into one day. This will be confirmed at a later date.

Play has been developed at the bottom end of the school and the children are delighted with the provision. We continue to work on our play provision at the top end with more structured and relevant play being developed.

MUGA

There was a parent forum enquiry asking if Whitelees were in line for a MUGA as other schools in Cumbernauld have had one built. We have received no information from North Lanarkshire Council that we will be getting a MUGA. This will be a decision made by NLC and not the school.

Anniversary Celebrations

Plans for our 50th Anniversary celebrations are well underway with our Pupil Council suggesting a show dedicated to Whitelees Through The Decades. Miss MacKenzie will take the lead on this with the children also being involved. The Pupil Council have already volunteered various adults such as parents who attended the school to participate by making a short video of their school memories. It had been agreed that a camera can be purchased from the School Fund to assist with this. Our actual Anniversary is in August so we will do something in August too. Current ideas are to install a bench or plant a tree to commemorate 50 years. The children wanted to invite our previous Head Teacher Mrs Hunter who is delighted to come and join the celebrations.

March Disco

The disco will be held on 19th March 2026 and will be a school disco with children coming to dance and have fun.

Dojo/X/Twitter/Sway concerns

There was a Parent Forum concern raised about the use of Twitter/X. The Parent Council were assured that only the adults in the school have access to X and that we vet all requests to follow us. If parents are uncomfortable with their child's picture being on X they can contact the school and withdraw their permission for the use of their child's photos on social media. It was mentioned that members of the Parent Council loved the books that the nursery provided but it was recognised that this was a lot of work and wouldn't be viable for the school to do. The teaching staff make short videos of Latest and Best week to capture that. Management agreed to speak to our Education and Families Manager on the use of X. The other option for communication is Dojo but there has been talk of Dojo being removed although this hasn't happened yet. Ultimately the authority will make the decision.

P7 Hoodies

The purchase of P7 hoodies is underway. Our usual supplier has had issues with their machinery therefore there is a backlog, so this is holding up our process. The Parent Council offered their help with the distribution of the hoodies which was gratefully received as this was a great help last year. Mrs Ronald will chase up sample hoodies for size.

AOB

Parent forum form/communication medium for raising any relevant concerns to be brought to PC Meeting? This was decided against as parents know how to contact the Parent Council with any concerns they may have. This was put down to more social media presence this year. The school will add the PC email address to the next Newsletter.

Management asked if the PC had been approached about bullying issues within the school. A parent reported that they had spoken to the PC about bullying concerns and they had been told the PC didn't know the school's policy on bullying and that there had been bullying within the school that had not been dealt with. The PC reported that they had not been approached about bullying within the school. If a parent reported bullying to the PC they would direct them to the management team at the school. We have a Promoting Positive Behaviours policy which follows NLC policy, and we will publish this on our website. Management reported there has been no direct communication from parents about bullying within the school. This is regularly talked about in assemblies, and we always encourage children to come to us to talk about what is happening. If incidents are happening on social media that is affecting a child coming to school, we would always encourage children/parents to talk to us about it and we can help.

Provisional Dates

Our provision dates are as follows:

10th June – Afternoon Summer show

11th June – Evening Summer show

22nd June – P1 – P3 Awards

23rd June – P4 – P7 Awards

25th June – P7 Leavers Assembly

The primary 7 parents usually organise something for the primary 7 children on their last day.

School Garden

The PC asked if someone was taking over the upkeep of the school garden. Mrs Forrest will be doing this but has only just returned from maternity leave and was straight into the HMIE inspection. Some of our planters are broken and need repaired or removed. Kirsty said Andy had kept some decking from a job he was doing for our garden and would be able to help with this.

All meetings will be held in person at 18:00 on the following dates.

14th May 2026