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# Inchinnan Primary School Parent Council AGM – 26/09/19



**Small School, Big Aspirations**

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# The Parent Forum

The 2006 Parental Involvement Act states that every school in Scotland has a Parent Forum which consists of all the parents/carers who have a child at the school. They are automatically members, whether they like it or not! The Parent Forum can expect to:

- – receive information about the school
- – decide on the format of the Parent Council and how it operates
- – identify issues for the Parent Council
- – be consulted by the Parent Council
- – express views through the Parent Council.



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# What is a Parent Council?

*The Parent Council is the committee appointed by the Parent Forum to run matters on its behalf. A Parent Council is not run by the school or the local authority but by the parents in the school.*



# What do Parent Councils do?



**The main aim of the Parent Council is to help the school operate as a successful school and to try to represent all parents/carers.**

- There is an important role in improving links between all parents and the school; the Parent Council should report to parents at least once a year (at the AGM) but it is good practice to do this on a regular basis.
- Try to make sure that parents get the information they need in an accessible way and that the school staff gets feedback on parents' views.
- Discuss any issue of interest to parents, including school policies on such things as bullying, sexual health and relationships education, homework and school uniform,
- PC may set up extra-curricular activities and after-school/breakfast or homework clubs in cooperation with the school,
- As part of Curriculum for Excellence, parental involvement in their children's learning is recognised as very important: the PC has a role to play in helping this happen,
- Represent parents' views to the education authority and others on those issues that are of concern to parents, pupils and staff with an awareness of equality and fairness. **Although issues from individual parents should not be pursued**, it might be an opportunity to address concerns in a more general way,
- The Parent Council should be involved in the recruitment of new Headteachers and/or senior staff,
- The Parent Council has an important role during and after a school inspection,
- The PC may take on those social and fundraising activities previously run by the PTA,



# What is the role of the Headteacher on the Parent Council?

- The Headteacher has a right and a duty to attend meetings of the Parent Council or s/he can send a representative. Of course, it might not always be necessary for the Head to be at a meeting, for example if you are discussing arrangements for an event. The Headteacher is an advisor to the Parent Council and does not have a vote.
- The Parent Council may ask the Headteacher to report to their meetings but remember that parents decide on the agenda and the HT's report should not dominate proceedings.
- The Headteacher should involve the Parent Council in the School Improvement Plan and encourage the Parent Council to have an active role in the development/review of some school policies.



# Parent Council – Office Bearers

