

**Whiteness Primary School Parent Council Meeting held on Microsoft Teams on
9th Feb 2026 at 6.30pm**

Present:

Stewart Somerville (Chair/Treasurer)
Paula Somerville (Clerk)
Rachel Colclough (Head Teacher)
Rebecca Waldie (Parent Member)
Dawn Smith (Vice Chair/Treasurer)
Catherine Hughson (Councillor)
Shona Sim (Parent Member)
Moraig Lyall (Councillor)
Jess Sales (Parent Member)
Rona Simpson (Parent Member)
Diane Forsyth (Staff Member)
Nicola Sinclair (Parent Member)
Mary Boyd (Parent Member)

Apologies

Simon Boyd (Parent Member)
Lynne Mayda (Parent Member)
Davie Sandison (Councillor)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted from Davie Sandison, Simon Boyd and Lynne Mayda.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting

The previous minutes from the meeting held on 10th Feb were approved by Diane and seconded by Dawn.

3. Matters arising from previous meeting

No matters from the previous meeting were discussed.

4. Treasurers Report

Dawn and Stewart will prioritise getting the accounts prepared for audit before the next meeting.

Stewart will ensure that all receipts received by parent council members is reimbursed as soon as possible.

5. Head Teachers Report

Leadership and Management

- Jenny-Lane Laursen has started her phased return to work following her ankle break. Faye Anderson continues to backfill her hours while her time builds up.
- HT has recruited to a preferred candidate for Senior Practitioner ELC- covering the vacant post when Lindsey Hay's maternity leave starts on Monday 23 February.

- HT has recruited to a preferred candidate for P3/4 teacher covering the vacant post when Lynsey Morrison's maternity leave starts on Monday 16 March.
- Becky Robertson has joined the staff, working 17.5 hours per week supporting P1.

Learning provision

- P1/2 children have completed their swimming block.
- P56 and 7 took part in a trip to the Museum and Fisheries college in November
- All parents and carers had opportunity to discuss their child(ren)s progress with teachers in November 2025.
- Early Years parents took part in a Stay and Play session in December- focussing on "What matters to me"

Successes and achievements

- The school has a new Sports Committee- run by our Active Schools Co-ordinator Sanna Ouhausz.
- The school enjoyed a visit from Pudsey Bear during Children in Need.
- P6 pupils have completed their Young Leader training, delivered by our Active Schools Co-ordinator Sanna Ouhausz.
- All children participated in the Christmas Concert "Festive Fix It", written by staff and pupils and linked to the learning taking place in the classrooms.
- P3/4 and P7 have experienced STEM activities delivered by Eleanor Hutchins from the Fisheries College.

6. PC Guidance on the attendance documents shared at last meeting - Final

Rachel encouraged the group to take time to look over the attached documents. This information will be put on the back of the school's leave of absence form. The group felt that the information in the everyday counts poster and details regarding the impact on pupils' attainment with 90% attendance was valuable. The group also agreed that the poster should detail that Whiteness Primary School's attendance is above the local average. This poster will hopefully be finalised at the next meeting.

7. Guidance on the use of mobile phones in Shetland Schools

Rachel advised that Children's Services have sent out revised guidance regarding the use of mobile phones in Shetland Schools. This information will be shared with parents and carers. There will be no significant changes at

Whiteness as they have an imbedded no mobile phones policy unless there is an arrangement with the school.

8. Smart Phone Free Childhood

Nicola explained that the Smartphone Free Childhood (SFC) is a movement trying to delay the age that children can access smartphones and social media. Nicola and Mary are both members of this movement. Nicola encouraged parents to look at the website as there is lots of supportive information regarding children and the use of smartphones. There is also a section where you can email your MP regarding this issue. You can also join a whats app community for support and more information. Nicola added that schools can sign up to support this movement. Rona stated she was also a member, and it would have a significant impact if the school considered joining. Nicola advised she is an SFC School Organiser.

Rachel advised that the school would be happy to distribute flyers, also they could consider having an information table at the next parents evening in March.

Dawn agreed that this is a significant issue and there is more information regarding this topic on the Safer Shetland website.

9. Any other business

Diane advised that the polycrub would need prepped for planting. Dawn, Rona and Jess advised they would arrange to do this over the long weekend.

Nicola and Mary agreed to become members of the parent council.

10. Date and time of next meeting

Next meeting and AGM will be held on the 7th September 2026 at 6.30pm.