

**Whiteness Primary School Parent Council Meeting held on Microsoft Teams on
4th May 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)
Joanna Smtih (Parent Member)
Rona Simpson (Parent Member)
Diane Forsyth (Staff Member)

Apologies

Simon Boyd (Parent Member)
Lynne Mayda (Parent Member)
Davie Sandison (Councillor)
Mary Boyd (Parent Member)
Moraig Lyall (Councillor)
Nicola Sinclair (Parent Member)
Jess Sales (Parent Member)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Stewart welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted from Davie Sandison, Simon Boyd, Lynne Mayda, Mary Boyd, Moraig Lyall, Nicola Sinclair and Jess Sales. It was noted that Jess has left the parent council.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting

The previous minutes from the meeting held on 9th Feb were approved by Rachel and seconded by Joanna.

3. Matters arising from previous meeting

No matters from the previous meeting were discussed.

4. Treasurers Report

Dawn advised that the accounts have now been audited. They could not be signed off by an accountant as some of the receipts were not available. An expenditure and income spreadsheet has been created to ensure all future spends are clearly accounted for. The parent councils past years income and expenditure report ready to be signed.

Dawn stated that we are being charged approx. £60 per year for our bank account and we should consider moving to an account without charges.

The group thanked Dawn and Karen Robertson for their hard work regarding getting the accounts in order.

5. Head Teachers Report

Leadership and Management

- Nicole Siobhan is our Senior Practitioner ELC- covering Lindsey Hay's maternity leave.

- Heather Whelan is teaching in P3/4 covering Lynsey Morrison's maternity leave
- Lois Paul has joined the school team- delivering Art
- Jeanette Leask is working 1.5 days in the school, backfilling the roles Heather Whelan previously did to support our probationer teacher.

Learning provision

- All parents and carers had opportunity to discuss their child(ren)s progress with teachers in March 2026.
- Parents came to our Love Learning Love Life celebration- where children led their learning walks around school.
- P7 have begun their transition calendar into S1.
- Early Years have begun their transition activities into P1.

Successes and achievements

- We had a visit from the Lerwick Junior Jarl and his squad. Frankie is a past pupil of the school.
- The school took part in World Book Day.
- P567 performed at the music festival in March, and parents enjoyed listening to them at the end of term 3 music assembly.
- P6 took part in the Euro Quiz heats in Lerwick.
- The whole school took part in the annual Voar Redd Up.
- P6 bikeability has started.
- The ELC play network came and delivered a session for children and parents in Early Years.

6. Agreement for FINAL leave of absence form – see attached

The group were in favour of the finalised leave of absence form.

7. School Improvement Planning for 2026/2027

Rachel advised that the new school improvement plan is not yet finalised however she would like to share some of the ideas with the group. The priorities being considered includes improving literacy, raising attainment and building a reading culture in the school. The school is also rethinking their reporting calendar. Reports take hours of teachers time so they may consider using this time more effectively. More information regarding the improvement plan will be shared at the start of next term.

8. Polycrub

Dawn advised that soil and fertiliser is needed for the polycrub next year. Dawn will find out the quantities required then costings can be considered.

9. AOB

Several parents raised their concerns regarding the number of events parents/carers are invited to at the end of term. Rachel will look at the school calendar and see if things can be moved in anyway. Also, Rachel will consider changing the name of Grandparents day as this can cause upset to some pupils.

Dawn advised that the parent council provided tea/coffee at previous sports days. The group agreed that this was no longer required. Rachel will send out information to parents advising them to bring a flask.

Stewart stated that Tesco is currently changing their guidelines regarding food donations and until this is clarified we will not be able to get produce for healthy snack day. The parent council agreed to fund a healthy snack day in June.

10. Date and time of next meeting

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