

High Blantyre Primary School Parent Council

Wednesday 14 January 2026 at 18:00

1. Welcome and apologies - Chair.

The Chair, Susan welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were recorded and noted by Danielle as detailed below:

In attendance

Susan Lindner-Kelly (Chair)	Cara Rice (Vice Chair/ Treasurer)	Danielle Barnes (Secretary)
Mrs Helsby (Head Teacher)	Mrs Ferguson (DHT)	Mrs Mclean (Teacher)
Ms McKinlay (Principal Teacher)	Alan Rothead	Jill McDade
Fiona McMillan	Louise O'Donnell	Stephanie Meiklem (Team Leader)

Apologies

Mrs Sliman (DHT)	Lauren Paterson (Vice Treasurer)	Scott Fletcher
Julie McCallum	Nadine Wilson	Ali O'Donnell
Kirsty Gospage	Jane Paterson	Kerrin McCafferty(Nursery)

2. Approval of draft minutes of Thursday 6th November 2025

Susan reviewed the actions from the meeting, and the following was highlighted: -

- a) **Polytunnel/Mud Kitchen-** Alan had volunteered to look at the polytunnel doors and make any necessary adjustments. Ms McKinlay has now sorted the doors. **Action** None.
- b) **Playground equipment-** Susan has been referred to Spifox for funding. Mrs Ferguson has sent details to Susan. **Action:** Susan to consider further. **Ongoing**
- c) **School ties for new primary one's-** Clarity sought regarding the total amount of primary ties donated by the Parent Council. We have around 8 senior ties and at least 20 in the cupboard. We have around 33 Primary 5 pupils with an additional 16 pupils from ASN. We need to think about whether polo shirts may be more appropriate for some pupils. Mrs Ferguson will confirm. **Action:** Nursery to confirm the number of ties required and for which schools once known.
- d) **Senior Uniform:** We need to think about whether polo shirts may be more appropriate for some pupils. Mrs Ferguson will confirm. **Ongoing**
- e) **Gym equipment-** Alan is investigating who can do an annual maintenance on the gym equipment. Mrs Helsby advised that Sports Safe are the initial contact for the price of annual maintenance. Alan sourced a company to inspect and certify the equipment for £30. They visited on 8th January 2026 to inspect the equipment. **Action:** Alan will follow up with them and obtain the certificate. **Ongoing**
- f) **Social media** – There has been great feedback on the use of the new Facebook Group. The Primary 7 residential trip to Lockerbie will be documented view the

- new group. At the moment only, Mrs Helsby and Mrs Mclean have access.
Action: Management team to have access to the group. **Ongoing**
- g) **Car parking** –Mrs Helsby and others have been patrolling which seems to have alleviated some of the car parking issues. **Action:** None.
- h) **150th Year School anniversary:** Mrs Helsby has the video which has been shared with the pupils. It has not been shared with parents yet as some children don't have permission to be on social media. **Action:** Mrs Helsby and Stephanie will look into how to share with parents as some children don't have permission to be on social media. Mrs Helsby and Stephanie will follow up. **Ongoing**
- i) **ASN fundraising** – Mrs Ferguson is still trying to engage with parents of children within the ASN classes to encourage them to join the Parent Council and has proposed getting an information stand for the new parents evening. **Actions:** Cara will look into getting leaflets. **Ongoing.**
- j) **Greenhouse** – Alan managed to remove some of the greenhouse and will return for the remainder in due course. Alan advised treatment required for Mares Tail. Susan advised that we cannot use Weedkiller and suggested speaking to James Meechan at SLC however, James is currently on holiday. **Actions:** Susan to follow up with James. **Ongoing**
- k) **Benches:** Scott volunteered to source picnic benches for the playground. **Actions:** Carried onto next meeting in February **Ongoing**
- l) **5.1 Halloween disco:** Susan proposed a £50 gift voucher for Amy and George for DJ'ing at the disco. **Action:** Danielle will obtain a voucher from Carrigan's **Action:** Ongoing

The draft minutes were approved by Alan and seconded by Cara.

3. Head Teacher Report

Susan thanked Mrs Helsby for the Head Teacher Report that was circulated in advance of the meeting.

Susan felt that the Christmas lunch was very busy, rushed and there was a lot of food waste. A lot of children couldn't recall what they had ordered and then ended up not eating much. Susan suggested a message going on the portal highlighting that the Christmas lunch is optional. Susan also suggesting we feedback to the Council and also request that sandwiches are made available in addition to the traditional menu items.

Lauren suggested lost property be put into clothing bank. Mrs Helsby advised any items would need to be laundered and names removed etc. There is a big focus on respect for belongings at the moment which may assist in reducing the volume of lost property.

Mrs Helsby advised following on from the primary 1 enrolment there are 7 placing requests from David Livingstone Primary and 5 from Auchinraith Primary. As it stands there are 31 enrolling for High Blantyre however, there will be deferred placements and a few other placing requests so number is likely to change. Placing requests are in the hands of the Council now.

Mrs Helsby advised the dates for primary 1 visits; 6th May 2026, 13th May 2026 and 20th May 2026.

All noting that World Book Day is 5th March 2026. Mrs Mclean advised that the school has been registered for reading schools week, which is at the end of February 2026. Asda have asked for pupils to go back down to do reading. This was a huge success previously. Room 13 visited the new Blantyre Library, and the pupils provided great feedback.

3.1 Learning Communities Policies

All schools in Calderside Academy's learning community work closely with each other and try to adapt the same policies for continuity. South Lanarkshire Council give guidance on policies etc. The mobile phone policy was shared prior to the meeting and is now put to the parent council to consider and feedback. There is an understanding that some pupils do need to have their phones in school. **Action** Parent council to consider and report back.

Ongoing

4. Funding

Susan thanked Cara, for producing the comprehensive financial reports. Cara highlighted the following:

- a) **Christmas fayre:** Cara advised that £4182.68 was raised at the Christmas fayre. The introduction of more tickets resulted in the bottle tombola raising over £700. The raffle was also another huge hit. The Nursery figures dropped from the previous year and tea and coffee didn't raise much money this year. Cara suggested that the cake stall goes back to the Parent Council this year rather than the P7's.
- b) **Easy fundraising** - We have £222 waiting to be approved and £77 is due to be paid in February. **Action:** Cara continuing to promote on social media. **Ongoing**
- c) **Community Wish list:** The Parent Council can add on anything that the school needs. (i) Sensory Rooms: There are more and more children with ASN in mainstream and South Lanarkshire Council has allocated £4,000 to create safe spaces within the school. Mrs Helsby advised that it was suggested that two sensory rooms be allocated in mainstream to serve as a calming room for children in distress. One room will be located upstairs and the other downstairs. Both rooms have been cleared and require a refurbishment. Mrs Helsby advised a worktop has to be removed from the wall which will then need plastered and both rooms require carpets. Mrs Mclean will ask her son if he can assist with the carpets. Alan will have a look at the rooms and see if we can help. **Action:** **Ongoing**
- d) **Pupil Voice Group:** Pupils have e-mailed the Parent Council for help with playground resources. Mrs Helsby advised the pupils had designed buddy benches. Susan advised there are contacts at South Lanarkshire Council that specialise in playground design. Next Pupil Voice Group meeting is the morning of 23 January. **Action** Parent Council will consider the request and feedback. **Ongoing**
- e) **Books:** Mrs Mclean proposed restarting book of the month as it had slipped. The challenge before was the cost as 3 copies of each book were required. Mrs Mclean advised only 1 copy would be needed and it would be around £50 per month between January-June 2026. It was agreed that the Parent Council would provide one copy of each book of the month for the upper and lower school from now until June. Susan proposed that funds from Easy Fundraising. This was

seconded by Cara. **Action:** Mrs McLean to provide details of books required.
Ongoing

5. Events

- a) **PVGs:** Still have a few outstanding, which require to be chased up. **Action:** To follow up at the next meeting.
- b) **P7 leavers** – Cara asked if Mrs Helsby could speak to the pupils about where they want to go for their P7 trip and noting that Blair Drummond could be an option. **Action** Mrs Helsby to speak to P7s. **Ongoing**
- c) **School trips:** Mrs Helsby advised there would be no full school trip this year.
- d) **Easter:** to be carried onto the next meeting for discussion. **Action Ongoing**
- e) **Christmas fayre:** The date for 2026 will be set around June time. Big thanks extended to our Santa at the 2025 Christmas fayre – he was a huge hit!
- f) **Christmas jumper swap shop:** There wasn't as many jumpers donated this year. Susan suggested that we start collecting donations earlier as its likely that people dispose of these shortly after Christmas.
- (g) Louise suggesting a stall for Christmas cards made by the pupils. **Action:** Louise will look into the logistics of this for the Christmas fayre this year.
Ongoing

6. Any other business

Louise found a great deal and has picked up our crackers for this year's Christmas lunch.

Cara asked for volunteers to tidy the cupboard in the girls' changing rooms. It is jam packed. The aim is to clear out some toys that didn't get sold or won at the fayre and display toys for pupils to take home, free of charge.

Danielle will pick up a voucher for George.

Susan proposed something similar to the Community Council's Spirit of Blantyre award which can be used for contributing parents to be recognised etc. Susan suggested we can think of ways to highlight this. Agreed to discuss in January. **Action:** Continued onto our next meeting. **Ongoing.**

Date of next meeting

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and participation and advised that our next meeting has been arranged for Thursday 19th March 2026.