



**PARENT COUNCIL MEETING WINDYKNOWE PS**

**DATE:** WEDNESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020 **TIME:** 6.30PM

**VENUE:** WYNDYKNOWE PS

ATTENDEES – SCHOOL	APOLOGIES
Rita Angus – Head Teacher	Lynsay Armit
Gillian Norquoy – Deputy Head Teacher	Maria Ferguson
	Kirsty Gibson
ATTENDEES – PARENT / CARERS	Lisa Miekle
Claire Anderson	Lorena Mombelli
Michelle Blackley	Evelyn Stewart
Gayle Bowes	Laura Weir
Cllr Harry Cartmill	
Emma Douglas	
Jenna Dowie	
Lynn Garvie	
Jillian Jamieson (Secretary)	
Cllr Charles Kennedy	
Donna McLeary	
Claire Mitchell	
Juliet Redmond	
Irene Stevenson	
Rhona Tait (Chair)	

**APOLOGIES**

Apologies noted.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MINUTES**

- Rhona Tait to follow up with Harry Cartmill re directional signage on Glasgow Road:**  
 Response received from Harry via Gordon Brown, West Lothian Council Operational Services – *“I regret to inform you that there is no budget for the installation of new road signage as new road signs are only provided through the councils’ annual Accident Investigation and Prevention casualty reduction programme. If it was considered that additional information direction signage for the turning area into Windyknowe Primary School from the A89 Glasgow Road was deemed necessary, then Education would have to provide Roads and Transportation with the budget to install legal road signage to the required standard on the public road network. My initial cost estimate for information signage of this type would be in the region of £800-£1300. At this time I am not aware of any timescale for new speed limit signage to be installed at this location, however any proposals of this nature will be confirmed through the appropriate process in due course”.*

Parent Council discussed the possibility of fundraising the money as all concerned re speeds being used on Glasgow Road especially at the start and end of the day. Harry Cartmill agreed to follow up again with the Council.

- Signage in turning circle Mrs Angus was to look into after Christmas**  
 Due to the Inspection visit Mrs Angus has been unable to progress this with the suppliers however, P1 and P7 have made posters re road safety and these will be laminated and displayed on the fence surrounding the turning circle.



## **AGENDA POINTS SUBMITTED**

- **Communication**

Concern over the number of platforms for finding out information about things happening in the school: Twitter, old blog, new blog, website, pop texts, emails, new office sway etc. Is it possible to have it all narrowed down to maybe just one or two?

Mrs Angus reminded everyone that the website is key and is a one stop shop. It was discussed that multiple platforms are necessary in order to reach as many parents / carers as possible. Suggestion was raised re the "What's On" page on the website showing a two week view rather than one week.

**Action:** Miss Norquoy to update website (COMPLETED) and summarise the uses of social media platforms.

- **School bus**

Inappropriate language and behaviour was raised via email and parents at meeting, and whether an adult could be present on the bus to provide supervision.

Mrs Angus confirmed that action was taken and has been dealt with independently re the behaviour incident and it will be reiterated to the children that they are the eyes and ears on the bus and should report any misbehaviours immediately to the teaching staff.

Unfortunately, there is no viable options re adult supervision on the bus.

- **Homework**

Inconsistency of homework particularly in p2 but also other classes. It would be good to have some sort of routine and consistency so parents and kids know what's what.

**Action:** Mrs Angus to follow up. COMPLETED – Primary 2 have received communication from teachers.

- **Technology in class**

Concern over children using Snapchat whilst in class. Rules around the use of using children's images must apply as some children do not have permission for their images to be used.

Miss Norquoy confirmed this issue has been dealt with and children involved were issued with a technology ban. The year group were talked to and reminded of the agreements they had made regarding the appropriate use of technology. The whole school have had internet safety sessions.

- **Traffic / turning circle**

Suggestion to instruct cars leaving the turning circle to turn left only and utilise the roundabout to ease congestion by turning right onto Glasgow Road.

Harry Cartmill advised he could contact the Council although given the response to speed limit and directional signage requests the feeling was it was unlikely to be approved.

**Action:** Rhona Tait to formally submit request to Harry.

Confirmation received that Gordon Brown from the roads department will be in touch to see what, if any, improvements can be made to road signage.



Concern over car engines left running whilst waiting in the turning circle. Can comms be sent from school to remind drivers to switch off?

Mrs Angus suggested this could be incorporated into the work currently being done with P1 and P7 re road safety.

**Action:** Mrs Angus to brief teaching staff working on the project.

Issue raised around dangers to pupils alighting from coaches when returning from school trip. It is extremely difficult for coaches to drop off in the turning circle due to the number of cars parked. Suggestion of signage and / or comms to advise when clear access is required.

All agreed that this could be included in the "What's On" page on the website as a reminder.

**Action:** Miss Norquoy to update "What's on" page when applicable.

- **Consultation over new nursery hours**

Parents of new nursery which is currently being built at St Mary's have been offered what, to many seems like better options than those at Windyknowe Nursery.

Mrs Angus unaware of this and unsure reasons why.

**Action:** Counsellors to follow up via the Council Education Department.

Response received from Councillor Kennedy:

*Parents/carers across all primary and nursery schools have been consulted on the phased implementation of increased hours of early learning and childcare. The last survey took place in the Autumn 2019 and the results were reported to the Education Executive in January 2020.*

*Parents/carers can currently select the following options for their child's ELC placement which offer either up to 1000 hours or 760 hours (current entitlement is 600 hours) depending on the setting:*

- Morning session (Monday – Thursday), 50 weeks per year
- Afternoon session (Monday – Thursday), 50 weeks per year
- Two full days (Monday – Thursday) 8am – 6pm, 50 weeks per year
- Place with a private partner provider
- Place with a childminder
- Four 4 full days/ term time 8am – 4pm (available in a small number of locations)

*The options available within each location is dependent on the physical capacity of the setting and the demand in the area for placements.*

*There are three new nurseries planned for 2020/21, one of which is the new setting within the grounds of St Mary's PS, Bathgate. Although, there is no statutory requirement to consult parents/carers in relation to the opening of a new nursery setting, the Education Executive approved that officers to seek the opinions of parents/carers who currently have children attending St Mary's PS, Bathgate, Balbardie PS, Bathgate West NS and Bathgate EYC.*

- **Newlands Day**

Question over why we get Victoria Day holiday and not the day off after Newlands Day given our school participate?

Mrs Angus confirmed this was a parental vote a few years ago.



- **Clothing bank in Morrison's car park**

Request for more information about the charity, what it does and how they determine what monetary value the school receives? What does the school do with the funding? Should this be promoted within the school more?

Mrs Angus confirmed that it wasn't a charity but a company which recycles the clothes through a few different channels with the school benefitting from contributions of around £50 / £60 per month which is used to benefit the pupils directly, through subsidising school trips.

A few initiatives were discussed on how this could be promoted in school along with recycling school clothes internally.

**Action:** to be discussed further over time – see note re lost property.

- **Diluting juice**

Question submitted as to why children are only allowed to have diluting juice at lunch time and not throughout the day.

Mrs Angus advised the school adhere to the national advice re promoting good health at school and this was echoed by a Child Smile professional present at the meeting. Mrs Angus reminded everyone of the opportunities for pupils to have water bottles refilled throughout the day so that children are appropriately hydrated.

- **Swimming lessons**

Query over why the swimming assessments changed (this year vs two years ago) and what the purpose of them is. It seems like the assessments two years ago had a lot more pool time and even a bit of fun.

**Action:** Counsellors to follow up with Education dept. for clarity.

Response received from Councillor Kennedy:

*I write further to our discussion earlier today about the questions raised at a recent parent council meeting, which appear to relate to the Learn to Swim (LTS) scheme.*

*LTS is funded by West Lothian Council and delivered by West Lothian Leisure. The organisations work in partnership to identify children within West Lothian who could benefit from a funded block of swimming lessons.*

*Here is a summary of how the LTS scheme operates:*

- *All West Lothian primary schools are timetabled to access a one-off swimming assessment at a local swimming pool – assessment is normally undertaken at Primary 4 or Primary 5.*
- *The assessment, which takes place during the school day, is designed to identify children who meet the criteria for additional swimming support. Please note, the assessment is not a full swimming lesson or fun session and is designed to provide the swimming teachers with a snapshot of each child's swimming ability within a brief timeframe.*
- *During the assessment the swimming teacher is looking for children to demonstrate some key tasks in the water, which allows the swimming teacher to determine their level and highlight if they will benefit from additional lessons.*
- *Where a child doesn't show the required level of understanding or carry out the task(s), an offer of a funded block of lessons will be made. This is done via letter - prepared by WLL and issued by the school to the appropriate parents/carers.*

*I understand that one of the questions raised relates to use of the small pool at Xcite Bathgate. This is a designated teaching pool and is used for all the LTS assessments undertaken at Xcite Bathgate. The teaching pool is at depth that allows the swimming teacher to carry out the assessment confidently and safely.*



*It also installs confidence in the children who have little or no experience in swimming as they are not out of their depth – indeed, these are the children we are really looking to identify.*

*Furthermore, the teaching pool is also an area that can be closed-off to the public and its use means that the wider swimming programme and service at Xcite Bathgate is not impacted on.*

- **Resources to support children in education who have Autistic Spectrum Disorder**

One parent advised (from personal experience) that there is a resource to provide teaching and support staff with the tools to support children in education who have Autistic Spectrum Disorder. It is currently being rolled out in primary and secondary schools throughout Scotland and would be an excellent professional development opportunity allowing staff to continue to feel confident in supporting young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorder in a mainstream school and nursery setting.

Mrs Angus confirmed that Windyknowe staff have previously received autistic training and use this to inform practise however, Mrs Angus would be happy to consider these additional resources.

**Action:** Rhona Tait to forward details to Mrs Angus.

#### **AOB**

##### **Communication from West Lothian Council:**

Rhona Tait shared an email received from Education Services regarding the Parent Forum which is taking place at Linlithgow Academy on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March from 7pm to 9pm. Agenda:

- West Lothian Council Led Parksmart Scheme
- Fast Forward Free Gambling Training
- 2020 Parent Involvement Back-Up Campaign
- Forth Valley & West Lothian Regional Improvement Collaborative (general/numeracy)
- Update on SQA Results

This is open to all Parent Council representatives and there is no need to book a place. If anyone is planning to attend please advise Rhona as we could travel together.

Rhona Tait shared an email received from the Management Team at the Civic Centre to invite parents to take part in the Public Consultation on Parental Involvement. The council are running a full public consultation to seek the views of a wider audience to refine the updated draft guidance which launched on 24 January 2020, and will run until Thursday 30 April 2020.

Details of the consultation: *The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 sets out the role parents, schools and education authorities must play in ensuring all parents are fully involved and engaged in their children's learning and in the life and work of our schools.*

*The Scottish Government made a commitment to update, strengthen and modernise the guidance as part of its joint Scottish Government / Convention of Scottish Local Authorities "Learning Together" Action Plan.*

*The refreshed statutory guidance and associated consultation questionnaire can be accessed at:*

<https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/parental-involvement-act/>

The school would encourage anyone who has an interest in how parents can be fully involved and engaged in children's learning to participate. Further information on the public consultation and how you can be involved please contact: [parental.involment@gov.scot](mailto:parental.involment@gov.scot)



### **Lost property**

Mrs Angus would like to explore ways that families could benefit from the huge amount of unnamed and unclaimed property which is currently in the school. The group discussed possible ideas relating to swap shops, swap cafe and uniform requests via the office including sensitive handling. They also discussed opening up its potential to seasonal swaps, school bags and packed lunch boxes.

Any suggestions should be submitted via the school office / Mrs Angus.

### **Newlands Day**

The Procession Committee are still looking for large premises to store what is made for the float and for someone with a van to help with transport of the materials. Possible options were discussed which the committee will investigate further.

Any suggestions should be submitted via the school office.

### **SKY Academy**

It was asked if this could be of interest for the school.

Miss Norquoy advised that it is very highly oversubscribed and Windyknowe have continually been unsuccessful when booking due to the volume of interest. We are currently on waiting list for spaces.

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### **HEAD TEACHER REPORT**

Mrs Angus gave an overview of the staff and pupil involvement during the Inspection visit and praised all those involved for their support. Overall it was an excellent report with minor improvements highlighted.

Miss Norquoy shared the results from the recent survey sent to parents / carers re recognising pupils. Sadly this was only completed by 48 people. However, the same survey was also completed by P4-P7 pupils and the results were quite similar – being that the majority of parents / carers and pupils would like the various events to continue.

It was suggested that the Wonders of Windyknowe Awards discontinue but following discussion this will be reviewed.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2020 (with AGM), 6:30pm