

Minutes of Kirknewton Primary School Parent Council meeting, 4th June 2024, on Zoom

Present: Pip Shiels, Fiona Wright, Kirsten Patience, Barbara Macdonald, Ashley, Julie Thynne, Turid Engstrom, Sara Shaw, Amanda Blainey, Lyndsey Roberton, Sarah McNee, Victoria Troy

Apologies: Adele Murphy, Laura Stewart

- 1. Welcome and apologies**
- 2. Approval of previous minutes: Approved**
- 3. Head Teacher update (Kirsten Patience)**

Staffing:

Nursery

- Mrs Broadfoot will be leaving the nursery staff; we will look to fill that Pupil Support Worker position soon.

School

- The funding for Mrs Duff's contract ends in June as cover for Mrs Walkingshaw; we're hoping Mrs Walkingshaw will return in the next session.
- New teacher – Miss Fletcher will be joining us from Knightsridge Primary School.
- Mr Bain and Miss Hocking will be leaving us at the end of this session.
- Mrs Payne will be returning from her maternity leave.
- Mrs Mackriell will be going on her maternity leave.

Hopefully we will be confirming class teachers for next year very soon. There will be one composite class again, Mrs Patience will speak to parents/carers of children in that class before announcing teachers.

100 years of KPS:

Thank you to PSA for the effort put in to support this; we couldn't have done what we did without them. The Courier came into the school and took photographs of all the celebrations, there is a great photo from that which will be displayed in the school. Children embraced the celebrations and enjoyed the activities, as well as members of the community who came into the school to take part.

Message from Laura Stewart: Older members of community really appreciated the school and were glad to be invited in and part of it.

My Primary:

This has been very successful, with all staff and children involved in running this programme. Feedback from the children and staff has been great, they really enjoyed it and felt passionate about what they were learning. We will run this again next year,

with skills-based activities in a slightly different order next year. We will do a social enterprise activity for the first eight weeks of term, then a passion project, and then another My Primary at the end of the year.

Sways:

We are going to try a different approach to sharing learning for P4-7 next year. We have realised that parents/carers would prefer to be able to dip in and out when it suits them, so we will attempt to make it possible to access a SWAY on a Friday, updated by the class teacher and the children. Every week it will share with you learning from that week and what the next week will look like. We will trial this and ask for feedback to see how that is working. We will distribute QR codes that enable access to this.

School Improvement Plan:

Following our standards and quality report, and looking at all the available information, we have agreed with staff and are consulting with the children about our plan.

We will consider a 'Four part lesson plan' to give the same structure for lessons at every stage of the school, with clear graphics to help children understand what part of the lesson journey they are in. We will look at formative assessment, in the vein of Dylan Williams' 'flying aeroplane' idea. For learning, through formative assessment, we stop during lessons and ask for feedback from the children so that we can tweak the lessons and make sure it's meeting the needs of all learners.

Mental health and wellbeing training: we have done lots of work on the GIRFEC indicators this over last 3 years, and this is the last part of that journey. We will be working with Place 2 Be to provide mental health training for every practitioner within the school, and integrate mental health awareness within the curriculum, to support children and staff, and be able to support each other and the children. Mrs Patience will be making a full school plan in relation to mental health and wellbeing in the school. We will be working with the Balerno cluster on it which will feed into the high school as well. Place 2 Be is also going to be training for parents/carers how to support your child in relation to mental health.

We are continuing towards gold for the UNCRC.

We are also working on differentiation, in line with the GIRFEC framework. Differentiation aims to have consistent approach to learning from P1 up to P7. We will have Bitesize training sessions with the staff. This will aim to facilitate learning on different ways of supporting the children.

4. Updates from Subgroups (Barbara Macdonald)

Health & Wellbeing UNCRC:

We will continue into next year but in slightly different format. We had hoped to be ready to go for gold, we're not quite there yet but we're not far off. Work to do still is to make sure the parent/carer body is really familiar with the UNCRC and Rights of the

Child. For example through the Talent Show (freedom of expression, right to relax and play). There will be something relating to the UNCRC charter on Sports Day next week. There will be opportunities to engage parents/carers in this without making it onerous. We have also been working with our children to reinforce the wellbeing indicators and help them understand what those are – this year we have focused on Safe, Respected, Responsible. We have tracked that that learning has had an impact and seen that understanding of these has improved among the children. Next year we will focus on Healthy and Active.

Neurodiversity group:

This year's priority has been to raise awareness of neurodiversity by creating leaflets about this as well as an in school assembly by and for pupils. There has also been a project in P6 and signposting for parents/carers to our ASN parent group as well as other support groups. Pupil group is working to evaluate the support systems we have in school. Pupils have worked to create a Pupil Passport to help with transition. Feedback from pupils is that children have really enjoyed the learning and have greater understanding of neurodiversity and equity. Parents consultation – 25% said they knew nothing, 37% knew a little, 36% knew a lot – so there is lots of scope for us to do more work around that. Feedback from parents/carers has been positive. Next year priorities will include raising awareness and supporting families across the community through a Neurodiversity Celebration week, in March 2025. A pupil group to see how parts of the community support neurodiverse learners – there has been a visit to East Calder library, and the group is now considering signposting that as neurodiversity friendly space. There will be further staff training. We will extend 'leans' project from P6 to P5 children. We will be sharing information with parent/carers at consultations. There will be early intervention and information for the P1 open night in 2025.

5. PSA Update (Lyndsey Roberton)

We have almost finished up for the year, so this is an update so far but there will be further reports after end of session. Recently, most of our focus has been on 100 year anniversary – it's given us a chance as a team to get to know each other; people have stepped in to help as volunteers for events and take on other tasks which has been great. It's been really nice to work together in that way. Recent events have been, Guess the Name of Easter Bunny, Easter Scavenger Hunt, 100 Penny Challenge (there will be a mosaic in Potter Around which will be put together from that), baking for the Centenary day, disco (thanks to staff and volunteers who helped with that). PSA's aim is to fundraise but it's also about supporting the community and helping rebuild it after covid, and that has all gone very well recently, with children and community members really enjoying these events and activities.

We're not sure yet exactly how much we have raised. We will be paying into the P7 hoodies and leavers' event, and hoping to pay into Pantomime fund. This will be worked on over the next few weeks.

Pip Shiels & Kirsten Patience: Thanks to all PSA members for all the work which has made such a valuable contribution to the school and community.

6. PC Office bearers and class reps for next year

The AGM for PC will be a couple of weeks into new session, so it is helpful to establish roles for next year. Pip Shiels will continue as chair for one more year. Amanda Blainey will stay on as vice chair for next year. Fiona Wright will step down as secretary, anybody interested in taking that on would be much appreciated.

Class reps:

Nursery: Mary Turner
P1 Ashley Mackenzie
P2 Turid Engstrom/Victoria Troy
P6 Sarah Mcnee
P7 Laura Stewart

7. Significant dates this term

Reminder to check the [calendar](#) on school website for significant dates.

19th June – children will meet their new teachers (apart from Mrs Payne, who will meet the children in her class the following week).

Reports are expected to be out on 21st June.

8. AOCB: none

9. Date for start of 24/25 session social: Friday 30th August at 7.30pm in The Green Room

10. The next PC Meeting will be the AGM on Wednesday 28th August at 8pm via Zoom