



BISHOPBRIGGS ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE

PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON TUESDAY 26th AUGUST 2025

Members Present: Sam McLean, Jane McIntosh, Lynn Armour, Kirstie Mendham, Stephanie Fowler, Jo Whittet, Alison Lunan, Ashwathy Rajagopal, Jonathan Campbell.

Further Attendees: Ian Donaghey, Linda Lumsden, Cllr Gordon Low, Cllr Lynda Williamson, Gayle Don, Sophie Cooper, Debbie Fraser, Darren Nichol, Vicky Johnston, Ester Hillen, Kenneth Lawani, Melanie McKendrick, Grace Afer, Kate Ferguson, Navjot Daal,

Apologies: Julie Day, Cllr Colette McDiarmid, Melodie Crumlin, Debbie Fraser, Julie Watson.

1 WELCOME

JC extended a warm welcome to all, particularly those attending their first meeting,

2 MATTERS ARISING AND NEXT STEPS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes had been circulated electronically prior to the meeting and were accepted as an accurate record. To be uploaded onto school website.

Critical Incident – Stay in Place Policy update; ID advised that EDC are currently working on a policy and school is drafting it's own meantime, Planned and unplanned fire drills will take place to see whether protocol is followed. Fire drill will necessitate evacuation asap, with return permitted once safety established. Where safety cannot be assured, (eg gas leak) return to building will not be permitted. A stay in place alarm will need to have a different alarm sound, signalling to remain in place with locks on doors, lots to consider in conjunction with EDC and is a work in progress. For further update.

Capacity – Transition exam findings; ID detailed that the new S4 year group of 260 were accommodated without issue, during the transition exams which were also invigilated with SQA invigilators. Modular classrooms were used for ASN students, whose number are increasing and can no longer be solely accommodated in the library. Although some issues with noise considering the proximity of playing fields, primary school and birds on roof, this is less disruptive than the foot traffic movement of 1000 people within the main school building for alternative options. School will continue to monitor.

3 HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

Role of PC

ID provided members with an overview of the purpose of the PC via power point. Detailing the parent body, through the PC are able to bring any issues, pertinent to the general school body, to the table. These are considered and prioritised for the overall benefit of all pupils at the school. PC business can also overlap with PTFA.

SQA Results

ID presentation continued for members with the exam results since 2014, excluding COVID affected years 2020 and 2021, where exams were not physically sat. Previous five years as follows;

S4 Nat 5 Headline figures

	% 1+	% 3+	% 5+
2019	94	90	76
2022	98	81	67
2023	96	85	73
2024	98	89	74
2025	97	90	75

ID expressed the average across EDC was 67%, (BA at 75%) at Level 5. 127 (58%) S4 pupils passing Nat 5 with A-C in every subject, in comparison to 123 (55%) in 2024. 66 pupils (30%) receiving straight A's. Comparative figures were detailed for EDC and ID highlighted the improvement in band average for Nat 5 English being 2.7, last year being 3.25 - a significant improvement. Nat 5 Maths result also improving from 2.77 to 2.7. It was noted the 60/40 male/female demographic for the S4 year group had no reflection on results, staff have successfully ensured all pupils are able to deliver results.

ID advised that presentation at Nat 5 level was 1406, although slightly less than 2024 session, the results surpassed those of last year with an average band of 2.71 achieved, 92% of pupils achieving band A-C. Members viewed the comparison figures for EDC with only one other school exceeding this with 93%, it was noted this school only sits 6 Nat 5 subjects and had significantly less presentations. ID proudly noted the YP at BA work exceptionally hard.

ID detailed the figures for S5 Higher results

	% 1+	% 3+	% 5+
2019	80	62	42
2022	79	67	45
2023	79	62	41
2024	80	66	43
2025	90	72	48
EDC Avg	82	61	39

48% - 107 pupils in S5 passed 5 or more Highers (2024 95/43%, 2023 88/41%, 2022 97/45%, 2019 88/42%).

30 pupils passing with 5 (or more) A passes. 90% of pupils in S5 achieved at least 1 Higher, best ever figure and highest in authority. 72% in S5 achieved 3 or more Highers, 2nd best figure ever and second in authority. Comparative figures were shown to members.

Discussion took place regarding curriculum differences and ability to 'crash' subjects, YP are not stuck with their option choice necessarily. If YP wants to crash subject school cannot stop

them and Departments welcome anyone wanting to do so. ID advised Insight Data will be published at the end of September, this creates measure comparisons between similar schools and is an effective instrument. Difference between SCQF Level 6 and National Qualification also discussed.

ID detailed the figures for S6 Higher results

	% 1+	% 2+	% 3+
2022	62	50	36
2023	62	52	37
2024	64	53	39
2025	64	53	41

EDC Avg for 3+ 32%

S6 Highers – 90 pupils (41%) in S6 passed three or more Highers (2024 – 84/39%, 2023- 81/37%, 2022- 77/36%)

ID advised that presentation at Higher level for S5/6 was 1165, an increase on 1076 for 2024 session. Members viewed the comparison figures for EDC. ID expressed S6 year group very challenging and figures are remarkable, BA have a lower number of YP staying on at school in comparison to other schools as alternative pathways are encouraged.

S6 Advanced Highers – 113 pupils (51%) in S6 passed 1 or more Advanced Highers, (2024- 49%/104, 2023-35%/76, 2022-42%/90). A significant increase of 243 presentations total (197- 24, 164-23, 184-22) with a pass rate of 85%. S6 Higher and Advanced Higher results at 41% and 51% for BA are best in authority, EDC avg being 32% and 38%.

Attainment factors were detailed and explained to members for the three year groups; male/female, >/<90% attendance, Free School Meals yes/no, Additional Support Needs yes/no (huge success in this area, very narrow difference), Quintile 1+2/ 4+5, care experience yes/no, young carer yes/no, English as an additional language yes/no. Insight will have comparisons at end of September.

SIP Priorities

School Priorities for 25/26 session were detailed and explained to members, incorporating the schools Vision, Values and School Improvement plan priorities.

ID broke down each of these areas;

Together we care – Respect – Relationships.

Promote positive relationships through inclusion

PPR, consolidation of points, explore badges. Ongoing Circle and Promise training, class inclusivity and individual participation. Equally safe at school awareness to safeguard YP from radicalisation and prevent gender based violence. Mental Health First Aid Award for staff and pupils. Registration activities to promote wellbeing.

Improve physical and mental wellbeing

Attendance and timekeeping policy launched. Well-being ambassadors and tracking pupil wellbeing. Staff wellbeing programme.

Together we learn – Effort – Learning and Teaching

Develop effective learning and teaching through the B8

Effective questioning and response techniques to be primary focus. Digital learning and upgrade of ICT.

Knowledge and understanding of pupil progress

Moderation. Robust monitoring and tracking. Learning conversations and agreed interventions.

Together we thrive – Resilience – Attainment and Achievement

Close attainment gap by increasing opportunities for accreditation.

Alternative pathways and accreditation explored and secured.

Develop meta-skills and record achievements

Meta-skills included in programme of works.

School Calendar and Events

ID informed members of the location of the school calendar within the school website, under school info - highlighting a link was included in his first email update to parents. Before September weekend there will be a parents information evening for each year group. S1 this week, provides opportunity for parents to ask questions. Next week UCAS and a Senior phase information evening. Details are always uploaded onto the website following these events. At the BGE family learning evening 16/09 three keynote speakers attending, P7 information evening 23/09. ID requests members spread word to other parents to become involved and encourages any ideas to be cascaded and shared.

JC congratulated ID on schools performance, a sentiment shared by members.

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AOCB

Connect Membership

JC advised members Connect membership has been recently introduced, EDC have only recently become involved and it is an additional referral point for the PC, providing online help. Information sheets were available to members and JC highlighted there were a couple of online sessions in respect of social media over the next couple of weeks. LL expressed EDC only paying for PC membership, PTFA will need to pay for membership.

PVG Requirement for PC, Constitution and Member / Attendee Difference

SMcL notified all members of requirement under legislation for Parent Council members to hold PVG, clarification was provided that minutes will now detail attendees and members, in order to ensure that meetings are still open to all. However, any decision-making discussions would only be able to be exercised by those with relevant PVG disclosure. Application

process and security of information was also explained. Constitution will need amendment in order to reflect PVG necessity. **SMcL to action**

School Mobile Phone Policy

EH seeking clarification in respect of policy. ID advised that the school's Mobile Phone Policy is displayed on the school website under the Policies section within the 'School Info' tab. Cllr Williamson notified members that following EDC Education consultation, in respect of Mobile phones, council are formulating a draft policy which will go before the Education committee on 04/09/25. No further detail can be provided presently but will be cascaded in due course.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding mobile phone use and access capability by YP within the school. A number of opinions were expressed with one member very concerned about the seeming continuous use of phone within classroom environment and another concerned that YP have no break from them. Use of ICT can be provided where no mobile phone access is possible and staff have also been advised that sole use of mobile phone should not be done, with access to other ICT provided. ID assured members that there is no issue with mobile phone use at school and no problem with teachers and mobile phone use in class. Phones are utilised as a tool by YP, giving access to satchel, quizzes etc and is educating YP to utilise phone sensibly. ID reassured the learning environment in school is excellent, with no mobile phone needing to be confiscated.

EDC policy to be notified in due course.

Behaviour Point Allocation Framework

MMcK querying poorly performing /behaving students being rewarded and praised with seemingly no recognition for those quietly doing what they should. ID clarified that consistent effort during lesson will be rewarded, with each teacher able to award a minimum of one behaviour point per class. There has been a recent glitch on satchel with system not properly updating, an option for badges is now being explored. There is a disparity between BGE and Senior phase as BGE undertake more classes with different teachers, ID expressed this is preparing YP for world of work. ID displayed the behaviour points for school to members noting 14 negative points among the 2000+ behaviour points.

Need for SCQF STEM qualification

AR querying National qualification for specific year groups with no recognition for 4th year. ID will discuss with AR direct.

Parking Issues

Parent had notified PC to request consideration for council to reintroduce bus following the amendment to parking in EDC. Cllr Low explained that the 142 circular was commissioned but this was a commercial service and not council funded. Timetable for inclusion of school run was dropped around COVID. PC could commission one as Turnbull did, however this was subsequently dropped. This has been discussed on numerous occasions and there is no commercial service. Council cut off is three miles and that is not going to change. GD undertook research several years ago and advised that SPT awarded contract to bus company who did not work first hour of the day (SPT subsidise part of route at Kenmure) and the first hour of the day is up for tender but no one wants it as it is not financially viable. School is well serviced, but not all areas of catchment, the circular loop still operates but not at school timetable. It was noted that commercial companies have difficulties getting drivers. PC unable to progress.

PTFA

LA notified members that anyone wishing to join the PTFA would be most welcome, she advised that over £3000 has been raised already.

JC thanked all members for their attendance and ID will contact MMcK directly regarding Maths destreaming rationale query, owing to length of meeting.

Next Meeting Dates tbc:

Tuesday 28th October 2025, 6.30pm – Assembly Hall AGM

Tuesday 13th January 2026, 7pm – Conference room

Tuesday 24th February 2026, 7pm – Conference room

Tuesday 28th April 2026, 7pm – Conference room

Tuesday 9th June 2026, 7pm – Conference room