

BISHOPBRIGGS ACADEMY PARENT COUNCIL

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE PARENT COUNCIL

HELD ON TUESDAY 3rd JUNE 2025



Present: Sam McLean, Jane McIntosh, Lynn Armour, Ian Donaghey, Linda Lumsden, Cllr Gordon Low, Kirstie Mendham, Stephanie Fowler, Jo Whittet, Cllr Lynda Williamson.

Apologies: Ash Rajagopal, Julie Watson, Allison Lunan, Jonathan Campbell, Ken Lewani, Julie Day, Cllr Colette McDiarmid, Kate Ferguson, Melanie McKendrick, Shona McCarthy.

1 WELCOME

LA acting as Chair extended a warm welcome to all attending 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.

3 HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT

School Improvement Planning

Format of this discussed during April meeting, ID advised members that the Microsoft form was circulated to parents/carers and a total of 177 responses were received with some lovely feedback. Although there was an increase in the number of parent responses this year, there is still the feeling a school of this size should have a higher volume of replies. Form was simplified in format this year.

Parental consultation – what has gone well;

- All forms of communication - updates, relationships, Satchel, Parents evening, progress reports.
- Support and Challenge – parents very grateful
- Opportunities & Celebrating Success

- What has not gone well

- Digital Devices – lack of ICT support. ID expressed that school are looking for provision of trolleys for next session on each floor.
- Length of Skirts some females using for uniform commented on. Shine survey results – uniform one of beneficial factors in respect of mental health but girls skirt length and boys wearing trainers, not shoes commented on. This was discussed with members with a safe guarding issue identified. ID will be communicating expected standards via assemblies.

ID briefly covered how the schools Vision Values and Aims align with the SIP.

Together we care – respect – relationships, promoting positive relationships through inclusion. Positive Behaviour Points & badges. Ongoing Circle and Promise Training for staff. Equally safe at school awareness to safeguard young people from radicalisation and prevent gender based violence. Mental Health First Aid Award for staff and well being ambassador pupils. Registration activities to promote well being – house tutors to be provided with more support to assist phones away, Guidance teachers providing programme of work with topical news articles. Improve physical and mental wellbeing – attendance and timekeeping policy launched (pupil interview, phone home, escalate to DHT, feedback being gathered from pupil support team. Attendance has significant impact on grades achieved – rolling out same approach to timekeeping – graphics will be produced. House tutors will be initially raising issue with guidance), wellbeing ambassadors and tracking pupil wellbeing, also a staff wellbeing programme.

Shine survey for mental health provides a snapshot of year group and is not individual. ID wants a full picture and YP will complete form about their wellbeing through year. Appearance and Loneliness feature in Shine, (sleep has improved). Tracker implemented for loneliness – over 60 extra curricular clubs with QR code, tracked accordingly. This has identified 37 YP who are not involved and school are working with these individuals, all of whom have been spoken to. Some are school avoiders, some have no time spare, some are involved in outside clubs, some have no interest, the conversation has been had with parents and pupils. 97% pupils are involved in one or more clubs.

Staff wellbeing also being considered. Cookalongs, Fitness, Knitting club. Mental Health training – anyone trained has bright orange lanyard. School putting through 12 more members of staff on 3 day course so continuing to build up network of trained staff. Staff working group will gather data to focus on wellbeing. May be some social aspects but also sharing good practice, workload – signposting to relevant support. School do realise how much staff give.

Together we Learn – Effort – Learning & Teaching,

Develop effective learning and teaching through B8. Effective questioning and response techniques to be primary focus, imbed and review learning. Digital learning and upgrade of ICT. New promethean boards being installed in every classroom. Knowledge and understanding of pupil progress, moderation, robust monitoring and tracking, learning conversations and agreed interventions.

Together we Thrive – resilience – attainment.

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 programmes of work.

Pupil and staff voice closely aligned, ID very excited by SIP moving forwards, relief from PTs as not much is new, vast majority of targets are consolidated and last year was introduction of these things

Stay in place/lockdown procedure

KM queried what school policy was in respect of an emergency situation and whether an evacuation procedure is in place. There have been five occurrences of knives in primary schools in the last three years and 409 incidents of knives/bladed instruments in schools in Scotland since lockdown. ID advised that school do have policy – if it is a knife or looks like a knife (sharp object) it is reported to police with relevant response. There is currently no policy by EDC but an initial meeting has taken place with the School Planning and Improvement Team, EDC will develop policy, this may not be communicated due to the consultation process ongoing. In respect of an Evacuation Plan, this is covered by critical incident policy, not stay in place however this too will be further developed. **Item to remain on Agenda for update.**

PVG notification

All members had been forwarded detail from EDC in respect of amendment to PVG requirement which came into effect on 1st April 2025 with a grace period running until 1st July 2025. Discussion took place among members and some work of PC certainly comes under the remit. SMcL will undertake registration of PC with Volunteer Scotland (no cost for voluntary organisation requiring PVG) who will oversee submission to Disclosure Scotland and notify members accordingly, via email in order to limit delay.

School Capacity exam situation

SMcL expressed concern regarding future capacity in respect of exam situation for 26/27 session where a total of 500 pupils in S4 and S5 will be undertaking exams. School struggled accommodating 440 pupils for 24/25 session with separate accommodation needs displacing classroom use during exam period. Modular classroom use not ideal for exam situation given position immediately adjacent to recreation area used for sports, shinty competition, proximity of primary school and grass cutting. ID advised that S4, 5 and 6 being on study leave and not within school during exam period, meant displacing classes is manageable with a juggling operational process. Current S4 year group for 25/26 session are 260 in number and their transition exams commence on Friday, trial runs have shown 240 can be accommodated in the hall, no more than this seating arrangement will be required. ID had not considered the noise issue in respect of modular classrooms and this will be reviewed for future exam diets with consideration of use of quieter areas of the school. Following an internal request EDC are developing a long term proposal given school roll not being amended. ID assured members that accommodating exams are not impacting on curriculum presently.

Drama /Arts dept fundraising

LL discussed the fundraising efforts made by Drama / Arts department whereby participants within the show have been provided with scratch cards in order to help raise necessary funds for the production costs. Concern expressed over the last minute nature of the fundraising and perceived pressure put upon young people to contribute. LL suggested doing little things over the two year period between shows and also consideration of some religious beliefs not supporting gambling. ID completely understands and will look into this. ID advised in the past young people have been charged a £30 fee to be involved in the show in order to help cover costs. Licence, stage and rostrum huge cost and over 100 YP involved in show.

Numerous fundraising activities have taken place including a staff race night and pink night. Full discussion took place among members.

Traffic Regulations change

New restrictions coming into effect on 13/06 which will impact some parents. ID will provide notification to all parents. St. Dominic's church car park is not a recognised parking area for school drop off and church expressing concern for wear and tear to the car park by parents utilising area for drop off for all local schools.

LA expressed thanks to SMcL for clerk duties undertaken during year and thanked everyone for their attendance.

ID expressed thanks to all members for the support given by PC over the session.

Next Meeting Dates tbc:

Tuesday 26th August 2025, 7pm – Conference room

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