



Duddingston Primary School Parent Council - Minutes

Meeting date - Tuesday 24 September 2024

Time - 7pm

Teams link

1. Welcome to the parent council and introductions

2. Head Teacher update

Area	Points to be Covered
Staffing	SLT- John (BM) secured a new job. His last day was Thursday. We have been taking part in recruitment and should have someone in post soon. In the meantime we have an interim BM working with us on a Friday to ensure that key tasks are completed. Teaching Staff- Kristina has now gone on Maternity Leave. No baby news yet! Ms. Cotter will be aiming to go to on Mat leave at the start of December (ish!) we will advertise for a teacher to cover her mat leave after the October break. PSAs- We are currently operating with three full-time PSAs vacancies that we were unable to fill before the start of term. We are restricted by the dates of the centralized recruitment. So we have been managing with a much depleted team. There is quite a lot of 1:1 need in the school also, so we are doing the best we can with the resource we have. Centralized recruitment underway now. Admin team- We have a member of the admin team who has been off sick for around a month. It has been a challenge to cover the office on a Monday. Please bear with us until we are back to full staff.
Standards and Quality Plan	Leadership of Change- 3. Designing a shared vision and school values. Involving everyone in change and devolving leadership, implementing sustained and embedded improvement Learning Teaching and Assessment- 3. Engagement in learning (children leading learning), effective use of assessment, planning, tracking and monitoring (use of data) Ensuring Wellbeing, Inclusion and Equality-3. Wellbeing (children having more ownership over their wellbeing- SHANARRI, Fulfilment of statutory duties, Inclusion and equality- needs to be developed via the curriculum) Raising Attainment and Achievement- 3. Literacy and numeracy- usually above the city average, some discrepancies. Attainment over time- now tracking this and can see how attainment is progressing. Now need to translate this data into an action plan to raise the attainment in the school. Learners' achievements, we need to track achievements and target opportunities. Equity- need to use our data of families living in poverty to better target support.
School Improvement Plan	-Launch of our Curriculum Rationale- Learning to Succeed, Learning our Purpose, Learning with Compassion. -Development of Curriculum Areas using the rationale as our 'Golden Thread' of learning. -Development of Skills -Raising attendance

Parent Consultations	Will be on the 3rd and 4th October. Consultations will take place in the hall as we did last year. (Results of the survey indicated that this was the most popular choice. Please bear with us as we get appointments set up- the person who usually sets up appointments is currently off. Hoping to have them live by the end of the week. Please can this be communicated.
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3. Items raised by parents / carers

a. Shoe policy

School said it was working well. Reduced bottleneck in upper school cloakrooms.

P1&2 working fine with the free flow play. & Definitely LESS MUD in school!

School doesn't want there to be a financial implication and doesn't want anyone to buy additional shoes until they need to. However, school favours plimsoles, inexpensive, take up little room and better for the gym hall when they do PE (avoiding the need for another pair of shoes/trainers) School would rather children didn't have CROCs as their indoor shoes (for safety reasons).

School did say they were happy for one pair of school/indoor shoes and come to and from school in others, boots, trainers etc, that will also be worn for playtime / lunchtime.

Concern raised about sustainability. Happy to donate to school that has welcomed DPS surplus school uniform.

Thought - shoe swap or similar at school fairs???

b. Mobile phones in school

High School meeting on Thursday - new head of PHS keen to understand how parents feel and very much wants to work with parents.

At DPS, those with phones hand them in at the start of the day, get locked in a box for the day and handed back at the end of the day.

Most families are very compliant but occasionally phones can cause a few problems as some parents want their children to have them during the day.

School would **urge** parents to support the school with their policy

MM will attend the meeting on Thursday and report back

c. Learning snapshot

Understand taken in conjunction with Learning Leaflets, Learning Journals & Parent and Carer Consultations. Felt didn't really tell us anything, esp about whole curriculum. Parents don't know where to help/support child.

Over the last few years school in conjunction with what parents have said, research as well as more widespread practise have tried to move away from just an end of year report. It's hoped then that there are no surprises.

LJ are more of a weekly 'story' about what the class has been up to and then there are 9 detailed observations throughout the year, 3 literacy, 3 numeracy and 3 Health and Wellbeing.

Parent Consultations are more about the wider curriculum

School keen to know what is working for families

It was raised that homework was a helpful way to help families understand how children are doing and where they can help them. As this was a big issue that was discussed quite a bit last year felt that maybe we need to come back to it again.

→ leading on from that READING, school said that the new books that were purchased last year were being used in classes. In the upper school reading in groups took place 2-3 times a week. School said that a number of years ago it was decided, again in consultation with staff, parents and due to research that books would not be sent home. *School would like to encourage 'reading for enjoyment' at home. School library books can go home. School will consider adding a few suggestions for books to the termly LL*

4. Dates of next meetings

Monday 18 November

Tuesday 21 January

Thursday 20 March

Thursday 29 May (AGM)

5. AOB

→ concern in P7 about facilities for girls changing for PE - *Mrs Glover* has an idea and will share with the classes.

→ FET dates and volunteers wanted

Halloween Parties - Tuesday 29 October

Christmas Fair - Friday 6 December

Christmas cards should be completed by Friday so that families have them earlier this year

→ Charitable Trust

Gardening morning Saturday 5 October 9:30 - 12:00

Solar Panel money - £500 towards inclusion fund and help with Benmore and outdoor equipment