

# CULTS PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Monday 19th January 2015

Staff Room, Cults Primary School

## Attendees:

Rachel Soplantila(Chair), Sonya Angus (VB) Vice Chair, Lorna Dalziel (LD) Depute Head Teacher, Phillippa Smith (PS)minutes, Hannah Mearns (HM) (Minutes) Morven Mackay(MM) Depute Head Teacher, Louisa Dunn (LDunn), Anna Porter (AP),Gloria Adebo (GA), Gill Flett(GF), Tiana Walker(TW), Eugene'O' Gorman (EG), Fiona Lawrence (FL), Alison Murray(AM), Sarah Revans(SR), Anna-Louise Owens (AO), Gill Broadbent (GB), Julie Simpson (JS), Lamya Brew (LB).

**Apologies: Caroline Johnstone (CJ) Head Teacher, David Mclure (DM), Vannin Bloch (VB), Donna Cuthill (DC)**

Agenda items	Updates and discussions	Action
1.	<u>Welcome and Apologies</u>	RS
2.	Previous Minutes Acceptance of minutes from previous meeting.	RS PS
3.	<u>Head Teacher Report</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homework policy reviewed by staff, pupils and parents. Staff report the policy manageable; pupils and parents gave an equal balance of views regarding the manageability of the timing of homework (Wed-Mon) – many find it achievable, many would like a different system (e.g Mon-Mon.) The policy will stand for the time being and will be reviewed later next session.</li> <li>• Confirmation of new perimeter fencing - 6ft fence (identical to Cults Academy) – existing access points will remain. To start mid-March.</li> <li>• Discussion on the refurbishment of the kitchen is underway with suggested removal of the wall between the dining room and family lounge and a change of layout.</li> <li>• Successful Knex technology workshops held in school for P3 and P3/4 pupils.</li> <li>• Parent Interviews held the week beginning 10 November.</li> <li>• Mr Birch met with parent volunteers to discuss and clarify their duties when supervising the playground including leading playground games. Guidelines will be drafted.</li> <li>• Anti-bullying assemblies were delivered to P4-7 as part of Anti-Bullying week with a focus on the role of the bystander.</li> <li>• Teacher In service training in November focussed on pupils' skills development and how we plan for this through interdisciplinary learning.</li> <li>• P3/4 took part in Drum Castle Christmas window competition – their art work was on display in the castle during the festive period.</li> <li>• All pupils enjoyed being crafty with PTA volunteers to make items to sell at the Winter Craft Fair.</li> <li>• LD met with ASG heads and Cults Academy to discuss their changes to P7 transition – further opportunities to be on site and meet with staff are planned.</li> <li>• Dans workshops went ahead for all classes.</li> <li>• SSPCA visits to P1-3 (assembly) and class visits P4-7.</li> <li>• P6/7 and P7 visit to Satrosphere December and again this week – focus on being 'Science Champions.'</li> <li>• P6 pupils took part in 'Dragon's Den' where their prototypes were showcased to 'Dragons' including Brian Angus DHT Cults Academy and their head boy and girl.</li> <li>• Three successful Christmas performances incorporating Christmas Jumper Day which raised</li> </ul>	LD

	<p>£1277.25. Pupils enjoyed their end of term Christmas parties, thanks to all parents who came to help.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four enterprising P6 pupils raised over £500 for Ebola Crisis Appeal.</li> <li>• P5 performed Christmas Round the World for family and friends – thank you to Hillview Church for providing the space and refreshments.</li> <li>• M+M Productions performed their rendition of ‘Beauty and the Beast’ for pre-school pupils-P7.</li> <li>• Miss Brown commenced her maternity leave January 2015. Miss Elspeth MacAndrew will teach P4B Mon-Wed and Mrs Charleton Thursday and Friday for the time being.</li> <li>• Scottish Opera will work this term with P6 and P6/7 pupils.</li> <li>• Water pipe replacement has begun. Work is taking place overnight with minimal disruption to the school day. The school will be closed to staff on the INSET days 17-18 Feb as the final work is completed and the water turned back on.</li> <li>• Free school meals for P1-3 has led to a slight increase in numbers (depending on what’s on the menu!) – our new system was designed to manage this so there has been little impact.</li> </ul>	
4.	<p><u>Update regarding cycling proficiency</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HK is liaising with Active Aberdeen to ensure provision for P7s.</li> <li>• Parent training starts in Spring. There was difficulty last year due to training taking place mid week .</li> <li>• HK was hoping to arrange possible weekend training for Cults parents so that the school can run own cycling proficiency programme.</li> <li>• It is hoped that other year groups can benefit from the programme not limited to P7.</li> <li>• HK to send email to parents with necessary information and asking for volunteers.</li> <li>• Will be on the agenda for next meeting.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><u>Action:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HK to send email to parents with necessary information and asking for volunteers.</li> <li>• Will be on the agenda for next meeting.</li> </ul> </div>	HK
5.	<p><u>Update regarding the grounds including perimeter, the play areas and pitches, parking, the disabled spaces and dog fouling.</u></p> <p><u>Perimeter Road</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AP was thanked for her considerable input to implement the improvements.</li> <li>• Perimeter road –Road has now been resurfaced and all double yellow and zigzag lines reinstated. Additional disabled bays and new railings at key crossing points</li> <li>• Discussion took place regarding road traffic around the school and safety concerns.</li> <li>• Misuse of zigzag lines, double yellow lines and parking in taxi bays.</li> <li>• Concern of car parking on verges, damage to kerb and grass areas.</li> <li>• Fears for pupil safety due to cars being parked and turning at the entrance to the lane into the woods.</li> <li>• Due to new road surface crossing points are becoming very slippery in current climate.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><u>Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic warden has agreed to come into assemblies and discuss safe parking and road safety.</li> <li>• LD will look into junior road safe scheme.</li> <li>• AP to investigate Loirston School parking initiative.</li> <li>• Possible creation of new DVD to be updated and uploaded onto website.</li> <li>• AP to request costings for additional double yellow lines/bollards/large stones to protect verges and kerbs.</li> <li>• Parent Council to communicate to all parents detailing safety concerns and parking issues.</li> </ul> </div>	RS AP

	<p><u>Play areas and Pitches</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marie Boulton and AP have arranged access to astro –turf pitches at Cults Academy</li> <li>• Active Aberdeen has agreed the use of the astro-turf pitches for Cults schools.</li> <li>• Active Aberdeen will liase with the football coaches giving greater access and availability.</li> <li>• The grass pitches have not been maintained. Steven Shaw (ACC) is investigating annual maintenance cost and initial fix.</li> </ul> <p><u>Disabled Spaces.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The disabled parking area within the play area at the nursery entrance is unsafe especially because of the very small children running around.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Action: AP to request that the disabled parking area is removed within the play area and re-instated on the peripheral road near to the nursery.</p> </div> <p><u>Dog Fouling.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issue with dog fouling in school grounds and surrounding pavements.</li> <li>• The two city dog wardens need to know address and times the dogs are walked in order to take action.</li> <li>• When contacted street cleansing will come and clean area.</li> <li>• A form is on Aberdeen City Council website to report fouling.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://online.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/faultreport/FaultReport.aspx?id=7">https://online.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/faultreport/FaultReport.aspx?id=7</a> Or the contact phone number is: 08456 08 09 19 from 7:30am – 5pm, Monday – Friday</p> <p><u>Play areas.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing discussion improving play areas and awaiting update from a previous visit and workshop.</li> <li>• New play equipment has been purchased.</li> <li>• LD is working with pupil council playground pals and ideas.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Action: LD to follow up report from the visit and workshop.</p> </div>	
6.	<p><u>Update regarding the Inclusion Review</u></p> <p>As a result of recommendations by consultants L. Walker and W. Wood (National Experts in Inclusion) a Summary Paper has been published. The council are in the process of sharing the recommendations and organising the timeline for implementation.  See Attachment.</p>	All
7.	<p><u>Recycling.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ink Cartridge recycling is continuing. Second batch has been sent away. Awaiting payment. Last effort raised £250.</li> <li>• Perimeter Fence wood to be recycled.</li> </ul>	RS L Dunn

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eco Staff Committee is running. Re-establish the Eco Pupil Council.</li> </ul>	
8.	<p><u>Lunchtimes, free school meals and space</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion regarding lunchtime arrangements. Depute Heads very flexible on children eating packed lunches in dining room with friends.</li> <li>With Dining Room Expansion, all pupils will be integrated.</li> </ul>	RS/ALL
9.	<p><u>Role of the PC and plans for the next few months.</u></p> <p>It was explained that from the Scottish Government's Introduction to Parent Council document it is stated that the main functions of a PC are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the school in its work with pupils and parents</li> <li>Represent the views of parents</li> <li>Promote contact and communication between the school, parents, pupils, the community, nursery and other providers</li> <li>Report to the Parent Forum</li> </ol> <p>It was discussed that with regards to the second point although the function is to represent the views, on matters that are pertinent to individual children it is important to try to encourage parents to address issues directly and swiftly so there can be an attempt to resolve issues without delay.</p> <p>This was supported by the staff present who encouraged and supported any parent with a question or a worry to approach the office and make an appointment with the teacher, deputy head or headteacher and discuss the matter at a time convenient.</p> <p>The forthcoming city wide meetings were discussed and SA and PS agreed to attend the next Termly meeting and HM and AM the ASN meetings.</p>	RS/ALL
10.	<p><u>AOB.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Question regarding the support for children with dyslexia attending Cults Primary School.</li> </ol> <p>LD explained that Cults Primary School currently supports a large number of pupils with a range of additional needs, including dyslexia and dyslexic type difficulties. School managers, class teachers and support staff all undertake on going professional development and as a school we are well placed to support the needs of all our pupils. We work within local and national guidelines and, where appropriate, alongside other professionals to achieve this. (Examples are, ACC Dyslexia Practice Guidelines, which are available to download from ACC website, involvement of Ed Psych etc). Aberdeen City Council is currently planning for the implementation of the findings of the recent review of inclusion and more information on this will be shared as it becomes available.</p> <p>Any parent wishing to discuss any aspect of their child's learning should contact the class teacher or a member of the school management team to arrange a suitable appointment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Role of Treasurer is now vacant. Update following the meeting, TW agreed to assume this role.</li> </ol> <p>New Financial Guidelines in place. A budget is available for PC members to assist in Babysitting fees. £25 was agreed to be a maximum sum to allow a PC member hire a babysitter in order to attend a meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It was confirmed that Mrs Johnstone has just returned to school and she was sent best wishes by all and welcomed back.</li> </ol>	ALL

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