

**MINUTES**  
**CULTS PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL MEETING**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023**  
**7- 8:30 pm**

**Held at Cults Primary School**

**Attendees**

**Cults Primary Staff Members:** Morven McKay, Stephanie Sharp, Gayle Allan.  
 Chair: Shona Close; Minute-Taker: Shona Harvey; Secretary: Marta Mackenzie

**Other Attendees:** Anne Skene (P2K); Michelle Barber (P6); Natalie Shand (P4, P7); Isla Bruce (P1M); Erika Garrido (P1M); Emma Walker (P3d); Nicolas Henderson (P4M, P1GTD); Jan Mackintosh (P6, P2); Sarah Essen (P4; P6); Dana Smith (P5; P7)

**Online (Teams) Attendees:** Steffani Fitzpatrick, Chitra, Pryyanka, Alessandra D’alessandria De bone, Katie Hulme, HB Yilmaz, Jenny Max, Karla Richterova, Mazia, Jenny Max, Laurin Allen, Catherine Smith, Jenny Mac, Jenny Mac, Katherine Tardum Franzen Storm; Dawn McLean, Lynne Duthie, Fiona Lopex.

Agenda item	Updates and discussions	Action(s) and Responsible Person(s)
<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>	Chair Shona Close welcomed all attendees to the meeting and set out the agenda.	N/A
<b>Winter Weather Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Discussion re recent cold/snowy/icy weather and children not getting out in the playground during break times.</li> <li>▪ Parent suggestions welcomed.</li> <li>▪ Scott Telford recently charged £150 but PTA paid for that. It is not for PTA to pay for Winter Weather Plan – it’s money is for school trips etc.</li> <li>▪ Money to be used from Parent Council.</li> <li>▪ Parents volunteered to clear paths.</li> <li>▪ We can organise for bags of grit to get delivered.</li> <li>▪ Discussion re parents with family members in Canada – what is their school plan for snow and ice?</li> <li>▪ Identify priority areas for clearing first.</li> <li>▪ Janitor can map out area on an aerial map of school what area he would clear.</li> <li>▪ We can call Aberdeen Council in September to book 1 tonne bags of grit.</li> <li>▪</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A Winter Weather Plan to be drafted with flowchart outlining different weather scenarios and actions: Shona Close to develop this input from other members of the Parent Council.</li> <li>➤ Source estimate from Scott Telford: Shona Close.</li> <li>➤ Canadian school plan ideas: Emma Walker to feedback to Parent Council.</li> </ul>
<b>HT Report</b>	<p>Morven McKay – Head Teacher with Gayle Allan</p> <p><u>Digital Schools Award:</u></p> <p>We are well underway. We had hoped that we would be ready to request validation by Christmas, but we’re not quite ready yet. We think Easter 2023 is a more achievable goal.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Emotion Coaching: What do parents want? Can volunteers email parent council and we can review. Share your ideas. Shona Close to speak to Catherine Smith to coordinate</li> </ul>

	<p>School improvement plan plus other information to support self - valuation e.g. pupil digital leadership.</p> <p><u>Safer Internet Day: Theme: Talking About It</u></p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> February 2023 with UK Safer Internet Centre. Gayle to deliver assemblies with internet safety day; teachers provided with information packs; whole-school homework. Getting the children talking about the technology .... Talking about it is a crucial part in being safe.</p> <p>Trio school visits and digital buddies are all part of this.</p> <p><u>Mental Health Week</u></p> <p>Week of 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Health Committee working on this and leading what they will say and do.</p> <p>Many of the internet and social media challenges – link with mental health. Message: It’s OK to not be OK. Flourish Group also starts next week.</p> <p><u>New Classroom Space: P6L</u></p> <p>Support for learning space was part of our vision.</p> <p>We are very happy with the new space.</p> <p>Thank you to all parents who helped volunteer during the recent ice and snow.</p> <p><u>Christmas Shows:</u></p> <p>We received only positive feedback regarding the format and logistics - “you nailed it”.</p> <p><u>Emotion Coaching:</u></p> <p>What do parents want?</p> <p>Can volunteers email parent council and we can review. Share your ideas.</p> <p>Group of volunteers to meet with HT to deliver a workshop ... speaker in from SPARK; plan, do, review ....</p> <p>SPARK: Emma Cameron was marriage counselling initially. Mrs Mackay did emotion coaching for parents.</p> <p>Catherine Smith has volunteered.</p>	<p>feedback – Catherine Smith volunteered.</p>
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	<p>Twitter: @cultsschool</p> <p>We are trying to be more active on Twitter ... little and often. Currently 428 followers – room for growth. Can we cross promote Twitter on other social channels?</p>	
<p><b>Parent Council Survey – Menti and discussion of results</b></p>	<p>Menti questionnaire issued 25/01/2023 with 14 questions posed. Results still incoming.</p> <p>We want to hear more from parents about what they want to know more about – e.g. different workshops like maths etc.</p> <p>Internet Safety workshop previously very popular is coming back - delivered by Paul Hayes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Closing date for survey to be agreed – Shona Close.</li> <li>➤ We should share screens during future parent council meetings – Shona Close with Gayle Allan.</li> <li>➤ Link to learning at home site – Gayle Allan.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Walking Bus</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Shona Close on behalf of Alison Stuart.</li> <li>▪ Volunteers organising children who need walked to school. There are different routes e.g. Hillview and Abbotshall.</li> <li>▪ Can the families that use the Walking Bus service volunteer?</li> <li>▪ We need more Walking Bus Volunteers.</li> <li>▪ Should we relaunch the scheme?</li> <li>▪ Walking routes to be identified - requirements have changed over the years.</li> <li>▪ Alison will pick up any questions from these Minutes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provide a link in these minutes to Alison Stuart's summary of progress of Walking Bus Scheme – Shona Close with Gayle Allan.</li> <li>➤ Parent Council to create a Walking Bus Steering Group to take over the Walking Bus Scheme. The Steering Group would talk about what is required for Walking Bus Scheme e.g. volunteers, routes, funding, roles, and responsibilities – Shona Close to discuss with Alison Stuart.</li> <li>➤ Dana Smith to develop a Doodle Poll for parents (especially early years parents) questions to include: Would you use the service? Which routes would you need? Can you help volunteer?</li> </ul>
<p><b>New Treasurer</b></p>	<p>We are looking for a new Treasurer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Shona Close to discuss with Sean Close.</li> <li>➤ Call out to school community for volunteers to be nominated – can we do this via WhatsApp?</li> </ul>
<p><b>AOB</b></p>	<p><u>Discussion re resurfacing of playground.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ongoing mud issue.</li> </ul>	<p>Morven McKay to feedback further on whether or not lunchtimes can be staggered so that the P6/P7s have more space to play.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Costs of resurfacing discussed – general consensus is that it would cost ‘tens of thousands’ to resurface with astroturf, sports surfacing or even to tarmac.</li><li>➤ Can we use the field opposite the school as an extension of the playground? This used to happen before there were ‘rules’. Is this something that could be re-explored with Aberdeen City Council?</li></ul> <p><u>Art Competition – Sponsored by Ithaca</u></p> <p>Details of art competition to be shared.</p>	
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