

# MINUTES



**Date:** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024  
**Location:** Teams  
**Time:** 6.30pm  
**Subject:** Parent Council Meeting

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## In attendance:

<b>Staff:</b>	Rona Wallace HT	Lorraine Donnelly DHT	Elaine Gardiner DHT
<b>Parents:</b>	Lyndsey Saunders (Chair)	Louise Thompson (Vice Chair)	Shirley-Anne Brightman (Clerk)
	Catherine Paterson	Diana Dundas	Jill Donald
	Jill Penman	Laura Kennedy	Fiona (?)
	Joyce Thomson	Nicola Scott	Heather Dickson
	Jennifer Macdonald	Lindsey McDiarmid	Maureen Matheson
	Jemma Bell (Guest)	Andy Thomson (Guest)	Aaron Gallacher (Guest)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Joslyn Currie	David Munn	Emma Henderson

The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.

## 1. HT Update – Rona Wallace

HT addressed a number of points raised to her since the last meeting.

### *PE Changing for Upper School*

The school policy will remain in place for children in P6 and P7 to bring their PE clothes and change for the lesson for reasons of hygiene and preparation for high school. If individual families feel they would prefer their child to come to school dressed for PE, that can be discussed with the school office and shouldn't be a problem.

### *Reinstatement of an afternoon 'fruit break'*

Fruit break used to be a second snack time in the day with a piece of fresh fruit only allowed for a snack. This adds to the cost of the school day for parents and the school doesn't have a budget allowance to provide fruit. For these reasons, fruit break will not be reinstated but the Health Committee will be encouraging healthy eating and lifestyle in other ways. This group is led by Principal Teacher, Lesley Gordon. Fruit is also available as part of the lunch offering so parents can join the staff in encouraging more children to choose this as part of their lunch.

### *Volume of emails*

Some parents have asked for the number of emails from the school office to be reduced. A review of recent communications has been carried out and the management team feel that the recent volume has been due to the time of the school year with lots of events to keep parents informed of. Work is being carried out on the school website so this may be used in future to communicate certain things and reduce emails.

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## *Office staff introductions*

If staff making and receiving calls don't routinely introduce themselves, please feel free to ask who you are speaking to, the phones are extremely busy.

## *Addition of navy polo shirt option to uniform*

Parents have repeatedly asked to have the option of a navy polo shirt to the school uniform. This has to go through a consultation which the Parent Council proposes to carry out next school year. Scottish Government is about to publish guidance on school uniform policies which will highlight the importance of affordability and sustainability.

## *Issues of animal faeces on the grounds*

This is a challenge to all local schools with visiting foxes and cats. Parents have reported visiting dogs during lets to outside organisations at the weekend. This will be raised with the local authority facilities management team.

## *Bushes obscuring back pathway to the school*

This path is the responsibility of the local authority. The issue has been reported and should be dealt with shortly and certainly before the new school year begins.

## *Annual paperwork*

Parents have asked if a 'no changes' or online review and update can be arranged for the annual permissions paperwork process. At present, this isn't possible, the local authority manage the process but the requests have been passed on and in future Parent Portal may be developed further to make this more streamlined.

## *Number of dress down days*

Concerns on the number of dress down days have been taken on board and the management team will take this into account when putting together the calendar for next session.

## *Recent events*

HT would like to celebrate the success of a number of recent events in school. Outdoor Learning Day funded by the PTA and delivered by Operation Outdoors was a fantastic and enjoyable sunny day. The weather was also good for 'Walk to School Week' with a record 99 children joining one of the routes on one of the days. Sports Day was also brilliantly organised and enjoyed by all the children.

## *Planning for next year*

The school leadership team are in the process of writing their Standards and Quality report for this year and the School Improvement Plan for the year ahead. Both of these will be shared with parents in due course. Mrs Roddick is about to submit the evidence to apply for a Reading Schools Silver Award and hopes to go onto work towards a Gold Award next year. The Health Committee has already attained a Silver Sports School status and is applying for gold and the Eco Committee is applying for their first green flag.

Next session, the staggered start and end to the school day will be stopped. All classes will run 9am-3pm but staggered break and lunchtimes will remain in order to manage the outdoor spaces and the lunch hall.

Recent feedback questionnaire is being collated as responses come in. Current responses show a 7.7/10 satisfaction rating with literacy and numeracy and an 8.2/10 satisfaction rating for health and wellbeing which is really positive. There have been comments around the delivery of music which is sadly not a specialism among the staff. The school will look at current schemes and look at enhancements.

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Next session all schools are being asked to look at the CIRCLE approach which is being promoted nationally by Education Scotland. More information is available here:

<https://education.gov.scot/resources/circle-resource-to-support-inclusive-learning-and-collaborative-working-primary-and-secondary/>

The LMPS team has also worked on the Improving our Classrooms initiative which will feed into new policies and approaches to learning, teaching and assessment, promoting challenge and having a strong rationale for play going forwards. The noted themes will be represented in the School Improvement Plan for session 24-25.

## **AOCB**

The homework policy is yet to be developed following the consultation with stakeholders.

The HT is waiting on quotes coming in from providers for the improvements to the trim trail proposed for the spending of the PTA raised funds.

No further communications will be provided on the classification policy. The policy document and the FAQs are available on the school website. Individual parents are welcome to contact the school office for an appointment with the HT if they have concerns. Classes will be communicated to parents in the week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> June.

This is the final meeting of the Parent Council for the current session. The first meeting of the session 2024-25 will be held in September. This is the AGM. Ahead of that meeting, the Parent Council will communicate out to the parent body to recruit new year representatives and a new Vice Chairperson. Retiring members Louise Thompson and Maureen Matheson are warmly thanked for their long and valuable service to the Parent Council.