

YSGOL GYNARDD PARC PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARENT COUNCIL MINUTES – 21st November 2024

Present: D Williams, L Gough, G Bryant (School Staff) Lesley Williams (Parent Governor)
Amy Gillard, Tara Higgins, Rhys Harrison, Nia Howells, Jayne Cheesebrough, Steven Williams,
Deborah Rowley, Emily Howells, Michelle Jones, Anthony Caravaggi, Sarah Lockyer, Rebecca
Richardson (Parent Councillors)

Apologies: Claire Iddon, Abi Kreischer, Emma Smith, Gareth Williams (Parent Councillors) Rob Taylor (Staff)

Apologies were received and accepted from CI, ES, GW and RT. Newly appointed Parent Councillors who missed the first meeting were introduced and thanked by DW for being part of the group. Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and DW provided an update on some of the queries raised, namely:

- Following the health and safety concern raised by TH, a handrail is to be fitted on the steps leading from the yard to Park Road. It is hoped this will be installed before the end of term.
- Additional coat hooks have been installed for Year 2 pupils.
- The concerns about drivers parking/stopping on the yellow zig zag lines resulted in additional enforcement patrols by RCT CBC (it was confirmed later in the meeting that some parents/carers have been caught and issued with a £70 fixed penalty notice). Parent Councillors did express concerns that a handful of parents are still continuing to ignore the law and also the threat of fixed penalty notices by blatantly parking on the zig zags almost every day. DW will monitor this closely in the coming days.

Parent Councillors were then asked to provide feedback on the recent parent/carers' meetings with teachers including the new mid-term report and One Page Profile. A lengthy discussion took place with all Parent Councillors providing detailed and valuable feedback. A summary of the feedback from parents/carers is as follows.

Meetings

- Meetings were very informative and provided parents/carers with a good understanding of their child(ren)'s strengths and areas for improvement;
- The time allocated for the meetings seemed to be about right; some teachers provided far more time than this meaning the meeting was exceptionally informative but it also meant other parents/carers were then having to wait for longer periods of time for their meeting;
- Being greeted by a member of staff on the main door meant there was a nice welcome and helped to direct parents/carers to classrooms;
- Parents/carers enjoyed having an opportunity to look at books; NH questioned whether all teachers were meant to share pupils' books as this was not the case in her meeting. DW explained books should have been shown and will check with the class teacher as to why this did not happen.
- Parent/Carers with pupils in Progression Steps 1 & 2 very much appreciated being given some resources to work with their child(ren) at home (i.e. phonic lists, letter formation, number beads).

Mid-term Report and One Page Profiles

- The mid-term report was deemed to be excellent and a significant improvement in making parents/carers aware of their child's progress, strengths and areas for development much earlier in the year. Councillors explained this meant they can now work with their child(ren) on their areas for development whereas the traditional end of year report is ultimately too late for parents/carers to make a difference.
- The content of the reports was of good quality and the fact that there was written information provided and not just a tick box grid was well-received.
- Providing reports ahead of the meeting was most appreciated as it meant parents/carers could come to the meeting with questions to be asked and also made the meetings more focused.

- The provision of a written report ensured information was shared more effectively with the other parent/carer if they were unable to attend the meeting. Also, for neuro-diverse parents/carers who struggle to remember information when someone is speaking, the written report means they did not have to worry about trying to take everything in during the meeting.
- Information regarding Big Maths for pupils in Progression Steps 2 & 3 needs to be re-considered as it was not easy to understand CLIC, SAFE levels etc.
- One Page Profiles were not provided for pupils in Year 5—DW will look into this and ensure parents/carers receive these in the coming days.

Any Other Business

DW explained that a new perimeter fence is to be installed on Tallis Street. The new fence, costing just over £20k, will be yellow and blue and hopefully installed prior to Christmas. Whole school attendance is currently just over 93% which is marginally below our target. A list of Christmas activities and dates will be sent out in the coming days; DW explained that Bigfoot Productions will not be filming the concerts as in previous years. LG provided Parent Councillors with a brief update on forthcoming parent/carer workshops and also reminded them that, as a school, we can issue food and fuel bank vouchers and also free period products.

Items & Questions brought forward by Councillors

The quality of the photographs is not as good as usual, particularly those with the 'autumnal' background. Can another photographer be used as the prices are also high?

School Response: We are sorry to hear some of the photographs with the 'autumnal' background were not as hoped in terms of quality and we will feed this back to Newman Photographers. For the first time in years, Newman photographers had to increase the prices of packs, in most cases by 50p or £1. Given they have not increased their prices for some time, the slight increase in price is reasonable; also, their prices are in line with competitors. Newman Photographers offer excellent customer service which is far beyond that of competitors and there are no plans to change photographers.

Can the school consider moving to card payments instead of cash?

School Response: We do already offer this in line with Council Policy. This is done via RCT's website to pay for trips, snack money etc. However, for a small number of events such as the forthcoming Christmas Concerts, it is too difficult for us to set this up via the Council's website due to it only allowing a small amount of options to be included. The school is currently exploring buying a card reader device that would allow parents/carers to pay with a card when they attend school. This is being discussed with the Local Authority to ensure we would be compliant with their financial policies.

Can a price list for the Snack Shack be provided to parents/carers? Sometimes, my child says they've paid for items and not had the right change or products when buying from the Snack Shack.

School Response: Absolutely! With hindsight, this should have been done previously and we will get this sent out to parents/carers. As part of giving pupils responsibility and to develop their numeracy and business skills, the Snack Shack is run by pupils each morning. Therefore, issuing change or products may be wrong as mistakes happen given their ages. In light of this query, staff will remind all pupils that if they have been provided with the incorrect change or product to inform the member of staff on breaktime duty who will resolve the issue.

Whilst this is not a school responsibility or issue, could it support the community by requesting a rubbish bin is installed on Tallis Street, ideally near the school? At present, there are no rubbish bins on Tallis Street in contrast to three in and around Clifton Street and Conway Road?

School Response: Yes, we will happily raise this with the Council and hopefully get a rubbish bin installed as soon as possible.

My child is saying that the portions provided by the school kitchen are not sufficient, leaving them feeling hungry. Can I provide additional food for them to consume such as fruit?

School Response: *The portions served by the kitchen staff are in line with Council regulations. Therefore, if pupils feel these are too small, their parents/carers should contact the Local Authority to raise their concerns. Parents/carers can send a snack such as fruit into school for consumption at dinner time if they wish.*

Do all pupils get offered speaking parts in the Christmas Concerts as it seems the same pupils are given the lead roles?

School Response: *Pupils in all classes are asked if they wish to have a speaking role in their Christmas Concert. Lead roles are offered to different pupils each year; however, the number of pupils who want these roles and also have the confidence and ability to learn sometimes up to 100 lines and sing on their own is small meaning some pupils do undertake lead roles in successive years. Parc Primary is exceptionally proud of how much it offers pupils and parents/carers with regards to Christmas Concerts. For example, the traditional Year 1 and 2 concert this year has been split meaning the classes will now perform separately; with large numbers in both classes, it meant fewer pupils would have had a speaking part so we decided to split it enabling more pupils to speak and have lead roles. Many schools do just a whole infant and whole junior performance meaning very few pupils speak and only a few performances are put on. This year, Parc Primary will be putting on a total of twelve concerts and six dress rehearsals!*

Pupils are often losing their cardigans and jumpers in school, what happens to the surplus uniform?

School Response: *Due to jumpers and cardigans looking identical in terms of colour and style, it is vital parents/carers label their child's uniform. This can be done by writing their name on the inside label with permanent ink and will significantly increase the chance of pupils not losing their clothing. All left over clothing is kept for a period of time before eventually being offered to the Rhondda Rotary Shop. A reminder to all parents/carers that if they want spare uniform for free, please contact a member of staff.*

Are pupils encouraged to drink during the day as drinks bottles come home with little having been drunk?

School Response: *Pupils are reminded to drink during the day and, in many classes, they have free flow access to their bottles. Pupils in Progression Step 1 and 2 are also provided with a drink of milk each break time and pupils having a school dinner get provided with a drink of water and milk.*

Meeting ended 5:15pm