

YSGOL GYNARDD PARC PRIMARY SCHOOL
PARENT COUNCIL MINUTES – 3rd April 2025

Present: D Williams, L Gough, R Taylor (School Staff)
Steven Williams, Emily Howells, Gareth Williams, Anthony Caravaggi, Claire Iddon, Abi Kreischer, Rebecca Richardson, Deborah Rowley, Rhys Harrison, Nia Howells, Emma Smith (Parent Councillors)

Apologies: Tara Higgins, Michelle Jones, Jayne Cheesebrough, Sarah Evans, Amy Gillard (Parent Councillors)

Apologies were received and accepted from Parent Councillors.

Minutes from the last meeting were discussed and an update provided:

- The list of memorable moments worked upon by Parent Councillors in the last meeting is now being worked upon by pupils, staff and Governors. Further updates to follow.
- The concern raised in the last meeting regarding pupils not crossing Park Road safely—an assembly on road safety was held for all pupils and also an enquiry was made with RCT Road Safety CBC to see if sessions could be undertaken with pupils in school.

DW spoke about the core ESTYN inspection which was undertaken on March 24th-26th. He explained that, due to confidentiality, he was unable to share the outcome of the inspection until ESTYN publish the final report on May 30th. However, he was able to share that the inspection had gone exceptionally well and he was pleased with their findings. DW shared information about the inspection process and how a range of evidence was used for the team to write its report including lesson observations, a meeting with parents/carers, interviews with pupils, staff and Governors, scrutiny of pupils' work, analysis of parent/carer and pupil questionnaires and analysis of data. DW confirmed he will send parents/carers a link to the report when it is published on May 30th.

Parent Councillors were asked for their opinions on possible venues for the summer trips. Parent Councillors encouraged the school to continue offering two trips with one being cheaper and more local. DW confirmed this is something that will happen again this year. Parent Councillors spent time discussing different venues with a focus on the costs and travel time involved as well as the amenities on offer. DW thanked the Councillors for their input and will check on the availability of buses within the next few days before writing out to all parents/carers as soon as possible to outline the summer trips.

The focus of the meeting then moved to attendance and punctuality. LG and DW discussed how school attendance for this academic year is currently significantly below the Local Authority target and also beneath that of several primary schools in the cluster. LG and DW outlined the strategies used by the school to promote good attendance and punctuality but asked Councillors for any other suggestions. A discussion was held with Councillors stating they were of the opinion that the school is probably doing all that it can with attendance and punctuality. However, Parent Councillor RR suggested re-introducing hand sanitizing, particularly for younger pupils as a means to reducing the spread of illness within classes. DW thought this was a good suggestion and will liaise with staff about re-introducing hand sanitizing during the school day.

Finally, feedback was sought from Parent Councillors as to the spring term progress reports for pupils which were given out ahead of parents/carers' evening meetings. Feedback was unanimously positive with the QR code videos of younger pupils talking about school being particularly praised. One request was not for abbreviations to be used within reports as many parents/carers as unsure as to what these refer to—DW confirmed abbreviations would be removed in future reports. He thanked the Councillors for their valuable input and opened up the meeting for queries and questions from parents/carers.

Items & Questions brought forward by Councillors

Can clarification be given as to whether Year 6 pupils are allowed to wear their black leavers' hoodies in place of uniform?

School Response: *Whilst we appreciate the pupils enjoy wearing their leavers' hoodie, they should still be wearing school uniform for the time being. It has been agreed with the 6 pupils that they can wear their leavers' hoodie on a Wednesday as it is their PE day. Towards the end of the summer term, we will allow Year 6 pupils to wear their hoodie on a more regular basis.*

Is the school aware that the path outside the Forest Cabin has a raised 'bump' across it, potentially increasing the chance of pedestrians tripping?

School Response: *Yes, we are aware and discussions have been held with RCT Corporate Estates about the cause of the issue and also the best way to repair it. It is hoped that works can be soon undertaken to rectify the issue.*

There is disappointment that the traditional Easter Bonnet parade has been replaced this year, particularly as some parents/carers have already made/bought a bonnet. Will this be returning to the school calendar next year?

School Response: *As already outlined in communications sent out by the school, the decision to replace the Easter Bonnet parade was made in the interests of parents/carers due to the short notice. Whilst there is disappointment, we have also received numerous messages from parents/carers welcoming the change. However, given that some have already bought/made a bonnet, the school will reconsider its decision and notify parents/carers this week if changes are to be made.*

The situation regarding parents/carers repeatedly illegally parking/stopping on the zig-zags shows no improvement. Also, delivery vehicles, usually for the school kitchen, are arriving at peak times making the parking situation worse—can these be scheduled at different times?

School Response: *The school agrees that a small minority of drivers still continue to ignore repeated requests not to stop or park on the zig zags. The school has been proactive and liaised with RCT CBC to request regular patrols by enforcement officers; it has also communicated numerous times with parents/carers requesting they do not stop/park on the zigzags. The onus and responsibility are on the drivers of these vehicles to comply with the law and not endanger the safety of pedestrians. With regard to vehicles delivering to the kitchen at peak times, the school will discuss this with Catering Direct; however, this will be difficult to change as delivery companies' routes and drop off times are determined on numerous factors.*

Are sandwiches being removed from the school menu?

School Response: *Catering Direct have informed schools that a new menu will be launched in the summer term. As part of the new menu, sandwiches and rolls are being removed. The new menu will be circulated to parents/carers in the summer term—any concerns/complaint regarding the removal of sandwiches/rolls should be directed to RCT Catering Direct.*

For consistency, can future communications re trips/educational visits be sent out on both ParentMail and ClassDojo as some classes are sending out information via one and other classes on the other?

School Response: *Yes, this will be implemented in the summer term with staff being asked to share information on both online systems.*

Whilst this is a community issue, the amount of dog mess on the pavement on Tallis Street is awful; could pupils perhaps design a poster or notifications aimed at encouraging owners to pick up their pets' mess as these could be attached to the new school fence?

School Response: *This concern has been raised in a Parent Council meeting; on that occasion, the concern was shared with RCT CBC Streetcare who stated they would organise for more enforcement patrols to be undertaken. The school will look into the possibility of pupils designing posters for these to be displayed though past experience has shown such initiatives has had little impact on dog fouling.*

For the sports days taking place in the summer term, can all pupils have a medal for taking part as opposed to just the top three?

School Response: *This will be considered when the sports days are organised and planned after Easter.*

Meeting ended 5:15pm