



Abbeyhill Primary School Parent Council Chair Report

Contents of the Report

This report covers items that have not been raised as separate agenda items for the meeting.

Thanks from the Chair

Summer Garden Party Organisation Team & All Volunteers

The Summer Garden Party was a great success. This was due to all the hard work of the organisation Committee:

Melanie Chuprasova, Ann Pratt, Melissa Sturgeon, Emma Fordie, Suzanne Macdiarmid.

We would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped on the day with setting up, manning stalls and packing away. We couldn't have done it without you.

Summer Gardening Team

Thank you to all of our families who helped to keep our garden growing over the summer. Particular thanks to Sian Harris who not only organised the volunteers and rota, but also for her efforts in opening the garden up to the whole school community for part of the holidays.

Mel Chuprasova

Thanks also to Mel who has chosen to step back from the Events Coordinator role to allow her time to focus on other commitments. Whilst events have been few since the start of Covid, Mel demonstrated her commitment to the role with all the work that went into the Summer Garden Party. Mel will remain an ordinary member of the Parent Council.

Parent Council Dates for 2022/2023

Parent Council meetings for the remainder of the session

Tuesday 08 November 2022

Tuesday 07 February 2023

Tuesday 02 May 2023

Tuesday 06 June 2023 - AGM followed by standard meeting

Timing of meetings to be agreed at PC meeting on Tuesday 13 September.

Chair Activities

Review of Parent Council Governance

The Chair and Secretary spent time over the Summer holidays reviewing:

Role & Responsibilities of Parent Councils in Scotland

Gaps in Parent Council Policies. Our privacy policy has now been published on our website.

Relationship with School Management Team.

Understanding the Parental Involvement structures in Edinburgh



Role of Parent Council

As a new Chair, attended Training sessions with Connect, the charity that supports Parent Councils in Scotland. Highlighted the following areas of support the Parent Council are responsible for working with the Parent Forum on:

Communication with and between school

Campaigning on behalf of the school community

Learning & Teaching matters, such as involving the parent forum in building the school improvement plan

Recruitment of Senior staff

Fundraising and running social events

The training flagged some areas of continuous improvement for the PC around how we engage with the Parent Forum. Work will be needed throughout the session, with plans including:

Regular email communication with the parent forum;

Regular, planned communication via Social Media;

Updating the Parent Council Website so it's an information source for the Parent Forum;

Building Parent Council Relationship with the new management team.

There is a need for a new Communications Coordinator role to help this to happen.

Working with the School Management Team

A meeting was held with Mrs Robertson on Friday 26 August to set up our new working relationship and operating rhythm. We also discussed:

Parental response to school improvement plan;

Opportunities for the Parent Forum to engage with the teaching staff, including Meet the Teacher and Curriculum events;

Possible social events for the year, including Halloween parties; Christmas end of term family film night;

Concerns raised over broken loose parts equipment.

Parental Involvement in Edinburgh

Edinburgh has a structure in place to support parental involvement. Above Parent Councils there are:

Locality Groups - those of interest for Abbeyhill are 1 per locality (NE/NW/SE/SW) and the Mainstream ASN group. Chairs are invited to the locality groups and Ali Morris is our rep for the Mainstream ASN group.

Consultative Committee with Parents (CCwP). This is a council sub committee that is attended by representatives from the Locality Groups.

Education, Children & Families Committee. This is the main council committee. A Parent representative from CCwP attends.

None of these meetings have been held since the last PC meetings. There will be updates to the Parent Forum when these have been held.