

KILLERMONT PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes 22 May 2023 (Draft)

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: CB, CH, CL, AM, SM, ES, GS, KT, Cllr Moody (part)

Apologies: CD, LM, JK, JT

2. Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed

3. Other matters arising

Defibrillators – Cllr Moody confirmed that these will be placed in all schools.

Path – it was noted that there had been a delay to the works to the path. No notification had been received about this in advance. Cllr. Moody agreed to chase this up.

Community Wardens – it was also noted that no community wardens had visited the area around the school. Cllr. Moody agreed to raise with Cllr. Gallagher to enable this to be chased up.

4. Chairperson's report and correspondence

EDC Parent Council Forum – 2 of these meetings have taken place since the last KPSC meeting. Discussions focused on catering including information about local supply chains, Halal, availability of nutritional information and possible use of social media to enable parents to easily access information about menus and photos of meal choices. It was recognised during these discussions that improvements have been made, and whilst no firm commitments were made, it is hoped that some of the suggestions will be progressed.

In addition, feedback was provided from the Education Committee in the form of an "Including Every Learner" presentation, (file attached for information). This covered information about the policy and provision for children and young people with additional support needs in EDC.

There was also a review of attainment data (file attached for information) which highlighted the strong positive trends in literacy and numeracy across EDC schools.

Forum members had stressed their desire for fewer presentations at future meetings and more opportunities for input from parents, both in the creation of agendas and in discussions at the meetings.

SM confirmed that these meetings are usually led by the Head of Education and Strategic Leads and the plan is to continue having them online.

Cllr. Moody advised that EDC is currently making very effective use of hybrid meetings and suggested that this may be a useful consideration for parent council forums too. Cllr. Moody offered to provide any support to encourage different ways of working if this was needed.

A further question was asked about how attainment data is gathered. ES confirmed this was done using P1, P4 and P7 Curriculum for Excellence assessments and included an aspect of teacher judgement. EDC gathers this information, and it is used to measure progress against the National Improvement Framework.

5. Head Teacher's report and correspondence

MUGA – this has now had its final surface which is curing (this will take 2 weeks). It will then be lined (a date is to be confirmed for this). Sports Day will go ahead as planned whether lines have been done or not. Landscaping will be done last, and it is expected all works will be complete by the end of August.

Thematic inspection – ES advised that KPS has been selected to take part in this (each LA was asked to put forward a school). The inspector will meet with a variety of groups including representatives from parents (e.g. KPSC and PTA). This is a less formal inspection than an HMI inspection. It's expected that the findings will inform future curriculum design.

Classes – following discussions at the last meeting, ES will be issuing a letter to parents about changes that will affect 4 year groups.

Current P1 moving to P2 will be changing to create 2 classes of 29 pupils.

Current P2 moving to P3 will be changing to create 2 classes of 34 pupils.

Current P3 moving to P4 will be changing to create 2 classes of 33 pupils.

Current P5 moving to P6 will also be refreshed with the expectation they will remain the same through to the end of P7.

In all cases efforts will be made to achieve a balance based on friendship groups. To enable this, children are being asked to suggest up to 3 friends they'd like to remain with, and efforts will be made to support their choices although it should be noted that it may not be possible to support all requests.

ES stressed that forms must be returned within 1 week to enable the exercise to be concluded in time for Meet the Teacher sessions on 21/6/23.

It was also noted that for classes where no changes are planned, children can make a request to swap to another class.

Forecast to next year – ES asked the group about preferred times for parents' evenings, specifically whether it's better to have the first one before or after the October week. It was agreed that after would be better as it gives teachers longer to get to know the children. w/c 6th November was proposed.

It was also agreed that the second week before the end of term would be preferred for March and w/c 18th March was proposed.

In terms of days of the week, parents were happy to go with whatever suits the teaching staff. It was therefore agreed that they would likely be on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Questionnaires – ES shared the results of pupil and parent/carer questionnaires. The 12 questions asked mirror those used by HMI. KPS usually issues these questionnaires every 3 years. There were 140 returns. The results highlighted that KPS is fairing well across all areas in comparison to other local EDC schools. The results have been analysed for information about strengths and areas for improvement. It was noted that there had been some feedback about areas that are out with the control of KPS, e.g., KPS class sizes and available space in the school.

After school clubs had been raised as a potential area for improvement, however it was noted that there is a considerable selection across year groups including some lunchtime classes.

It was also noted that there had been some comments about providing support for those who need it whilst challenging achievers more. Parents felt this was being raised specifically about maths and science areas. ES reinforced that KPS has a duty to challenge children but also to support and teachers work hard to ensure that learning is appropriate for children at all stages. All the feedback will be used to further refine the school improvement plan.

In terms of other ways of supporting children, ES reminded the group that PEF is available to provide funding for P4/P5 121 counselling if this is needed. Previously Lifelink groups sessions had been run and it is hoped that more of these can be organised. Cost of living support is also available if anyone needs this, and additional (government funded) support has been provided by Adam Roberts and ES suggested that perhaps additional support of this nature could be made available in the future.

Pupil feedback themes included a desire to work with other year groups, more footballs being made available at the MUGA and a better supply of IT such as iPads. ES confirmed that KPS is still awaiting 1 device per pupil as secondary schools are being prioritised over primary schools. It was also noted that when all devices are available it will require careful management because of the potential impact on network capacity.

Discussion will continue with the children to improve areas raised.

It was suggested by a parent that if more Lifelink sessions are planned that it might be helpful to target children younger than P7's to help them develop coping mechanisms.

School Aims – The group reviewed 7 School Aims and feedback received about them at the recent parents’ evenings. As a result, some minor amendments were agreed to two of the paragraphs.

Para A – agreed to add “inclusive”.

Para B – the words “promote equity for all learners to” will be removed leaving “Every child has the same learning opportunities to succeed”.

There had been feedback about a few other paragraphs however it was agreed that wording should not be amended because of the need to align with the Curriculum for Excellence and legal commitments to ensure that everyone can enjoy their rights.

6. AOCB

MUGA timetable – it was suggested that it may be helpful to share this on the newsletter for parents.

Clerk - ES and SM thanked CB for her clerk services over the last 10 years and each presented her with a gift of thanks on behalf of pupils and parent members. CB thanked everyone for their kind words and wished everyone well for the next term.

Scheduled dates and times of next meetings

Monday 28/8/23 at 6.45pm at Boclair Academy

Monday 9/10/23 at 6.45pm at Boclair Academy.