

KILLERMONT PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes 3 March 2025 (Draft)

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: CL, KT, RS, GS, JK, JH, CH, AM, FM, SM, AD, JT, LM, CD

Apologies: -

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were agreed.

3. Other matters arising

Scottish Poetry Competition

- A parent raised their experience where their child got through to final of the competition in P4, and the prize went to someone who had won this before, in P1. It was proposed that the same pupil doesn't win in multiple years in order to encourage all pupils and to help give a number of pupils the confidence that comes with winning. It was suggested a record of winners is kept so this could be acted on. This has been discussed with a number of parents who agreed with this suggestion. Others thought this was unfair to the child who won as they are then discouraged from trying the following year. FM confirmed a record is kept, however it was thought that disallowing a pupil to win in the following year was not appropriate, but the school agreed to consider how this is managed to ensure all pupils feel encouraged and also to encourage resilience and learn how to respond to a 'winner'. It was noted different people judge the competition each year.

Pupils cycling to school

- A post was put on a local social media page about a young boy leaving Killermont on his bike cycling very fast on the pavement on Rannoch Drive. He clipped a member of the public as he was unable to stop in time, though he was very apologetic. After this a number of other boys were seen racing down the pavement. Whilst it was recognised that cycling on the road is not necessarily safe for children of this age, it was asked that they be reminded to be considerate of pedestrians on the pavement. This would be raised with pupils.

4. Chairperson's report and correspondence

The next forum will take place in March.

Traffic Free Schools

At the previous meeting the Councillors mentioned the possibility of KPS being put forward as a traffic free school. This was discussed with staff who were not supportive but are aware this may still be put into place. The EYC is still to discuss this with staff, and they may be more impacted by this due to their varying working hours. It was noted if parents want to push for this the school will not be able to block this. School staff responded to a council survey on public transport and it was noted for many staff public transport is not an option. There was also concern that the school becoming a traffic free school just pushes the cars onto surrounding roads (though noted this spreads the cars which could be a benefit, and there is less traffic closer to the school where the highest number of children are). It was thought when the 20mph zone comes into force this could help slow the roads. It was suggested the Parent Council should take their view on this issue based on the best outcome for pupils, as whatever decision is made there will be some parties, whether this be staff, residents or parents, who are unhappy with the decision. Resuming the walking bus which was established previously by the JRSO was suggested as a good way to encourage more children walking to school. It was suggested the days the pupils get points for this varies rather than being the same day every week, as this could be a day some pupils are unable to walk.

Both Head Teachers and Parent Councils at other schools who have become a Traffic Free School will be consulted to find out more about their experience.

5. Head Teacher's report and correspondence

- Tracking of all learners is ongoing.
- Looking at classes and staffing for 25/26. Numbers dropped in primary 1 over the last 2 years so this will need to be considered as these cohorts progress through the school. In future years this may require composite classes. Those classes which are currently being team-taught will continue with this next year. Teacher numbers in EDC are being maintained. It is likely where a class has had the same teacher for two years this will change next year, but this hasn't been decided yet. Learning will be at the heart of decisions, but feedback from parents will be considered.
- Parents night will be coming up soon. Parent council members suggested that homework could be the topic of consultation at the Parents night. Parents could be given options to vote for more/less/same amount of homework with some alternative options suggested. It was noted that opinions on the amount of homework pupils get varies and parents can choose to opt out of homework. FM was planning to have a conversation with a HT whose school has removed homework. A poll for helpers at the Parent Council table at the Parents Evening will be posted on the What's Apps group.
- Sports day will be the 6th of June, with the 13th June held as the reserve date.

6. Councillor Update

- No councillors were present.

7. AOCB

- Thank you to JT for her service over many years on the Parents Council.

Scheduled dates and times of next meetings:

19th May 2025 at 6:45pm in Bocclair Academy

Draft