

KILLERMONT PRIMARY PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes 19 May 2025 (Draft)

1. Welcome and apologies

Present: LM, RD, RS, RJ, SM, FM, CH, JK, SR, AM, KT, JH, GS, Cllr Moody

Apologies: CL, Cllr Gallagher

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were agreed.

3. Other matters arising

None

4. Chairperson's report and correspondence

Homework consultation

- Good number of responses, with a range of views, from those who would prefer more homework, to those who would like less. A number of responses requested a reduction in the number of platforms used for homework. A review of responses indicated that the majority of parents are content with current homework arrangements. Key themes included:
 - Concerns about reliance on digital tools and IT
 - Some requested an increased focus on reading, with requests for real books rather than online books
 - Some parents cited issues with time to complete homework
 - More traditional paper-based homework was requested
 - A reduction in the use of Sumdog was requested
 - More enquiry/skill-based homework requested
 - Some like homework for its role in letting parents know what their child is learning in school
 - It was thought it helped pupils prepare for secondary school and exams
 - Requests that homework has a purpose

FM responded that moving to fully paper-based homework for 400 pupils would be a logistically and financial challenging. The school will do some Quality Assurance on homework being provided across the school with a view to providing a mix of homework formats whilst considering accessibility. One suggestion was pupils writing their spelling words from a board, rather than the words being provided online. It was noted that parents were keen to be kept up-to-date regularly on what was being taught in class and FM would be consider how this could be provided.

EDC Parents Council Forum

- Takes place 20 May 2025. Agenda items include:
 - Use of Mobile Devices in School
 - Protecting Vulnerable Groups
 - Feedback from Education Committee

5. Head Teacher's report and correspondence

Classes for 25/26

48 children will be entering P1 in August. 63 children will be leaving P7, so the school role will drop, with the new role being ~412. This allows the current allocation of 2 classes at each stage to remain in place (if the school role drops further then composite classes will be required). Team teaching will be in place in P5 and P7. There are no major changes to classes planned but where parents requested a change these are being considered. The current P3 going into P4 will be altered. Some changes will be considered in P6, going into P7. There will be a few changes in P5, going into P6. The new classes will be shared in June, as staffing won't be known until then (though this could still change before August). On the 18th of June there will be a meet the teacher session. The form which was shared previously asking pupils to pick 3 friends to move with won't be shared. Some parents noted completion of this form had caused anxiety when pupils were asked to complete it.

School Improvement Plan Priorities

- The Circle will continue to be used for pupils with additional support needs to support inclusion.
- There will be a nod to new council aims and priorities.
- There will also be reference to the UNCRC, which will be discussed at assemblies and within classes. Pupil voice is strong in KPS and this will be built upon.
- There is a data gap in terms of pupils with dyslexia, though this may be a result of a lack of evidence, so this will be focused on.
- A new strand on learning and teaching will include a focus on literacy, and how this can be used as a measure of L&T. EDC have produced a Literacy Framework for Equity which is being rolled out.
- STEM will be included, it was noted that staff found real value in working with the new equipment for STEM teaching delivery. There is an appetite within teaching staff to look at the maths curriculum.

Pupil Equity Fund

- This year was used for 1-2-1 and group counselling. Some was kept aside for cost of the school day.

- 25/26 is the last year of this fund so schools are being asked to use the fund for something sustainable. KPS plan to use some of the fund for books and other literacy resources.
- Will also use some of the fund for counselling as this was very impactful for those pupils who benefited from this. Lifelink will continue to be available for P6 and P7.

Communication

- Since coming off 'X' it has been challenging to find another suitable vehicle for sharing photos. The Senior Leadership Team are considering how best to address this. Other platforms, such as Bluesky have been considered but not in enough depth to make a firm decision on their use. A parent member reported that Bluesky is similar to X, but not so toxic. The T&Cs of Bluesky still need to be looked into. The concern however that some parents do not want to have to use more platforms also required further consideration.

6. Councillor Update

- There was a meeting of the Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate Assets Committee on the 8th May. The next phase of traffic free schools pilot was discussed and the 3 selected schools are Lennoxton, Meadowburn and Thomas Muir Primary Schools.
- The pilot of 20mph zones was discussed. There are plans to make all roads in Bearsden 20mph with the exception of Maryhill road, the Switchback and Milngavie road. Due to a split vote at the Place, Neighbourhood and Corporate Assets Committee this will go to a council meeting on 19th June. If this is approved there are no clear timelines for implementation.

7. Use of mobile phones/devices at school

- A questionnaire was sent to parents in all primary and secondary schools and pupils in secondary schools regarding the use of mobile phones/devices. There was some confusion about the purpose of the consultation. It was an EDC decision to send out this survey and this was on the back of the Scottish Government guidance on this.
- Cllr Moody reported that he had spoken to Greg Bremner recently and over 10,000 responses had been received to the questionnaire which is the largest response they have received to such a consultation.
- FM informed the committee that there is not a lot of use of mobile phones by pupils in KPS. The current rule on this is that if pupils bring a phone to school it is to be turned off and in their bag during the school day. Parent attendees thought it would be useful to share the school's stance on this with the parent body.
- As a result of the consultation EDC will update their policies on the use of mobile phones/devices and KPS will follow this.
- Parent members with pupils at Bocclair Academy reported that mobile phones are required to be used in school for learning.

- The Bocclair Academy Parent Council had discussed this issue as some pupils in lower years felt isolated at break times as other pupils were on their mobile phone. There was concern that smart phone use is addictive so excessive use at this young age is problematic. The responsibility of parents to monitor this was noted.
- A number of P6 parents have been discussing how to avoid the requirement to give their children a smart phone, even going into secondary school. They queried if it would be possible to have a meeting of representatives of the KPS Parent Council with the Headteacher of Bocclair. The Parent Council agreed that a special meeting would be requested with the Headteacher of Bocclair Academy to discuss this.

Action: SM

8. AOCB

- None

Scheduled dates and times of next meetings:

1st September at 6:45pm in Bocclair Academy.