



Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce Comhairle nam Pàrant - 11mh den Chèitean 2026 19:00-20:00

Parent Council Minutes 11th May 2026 - 19:00-20:00

1) Fàilte agus facal tòisich bho na Cathraichean - Welcome from the Chairs	1
2) Gnothaichean ag èirigh agus aontachadh gearr-chunntas na coinneimh mu dheireadh - Minutes of the previous meeting & matters arising	2
3) Aithris a' cheannard - Headteacher Update	2
Pastoral Care Contacts	2
Lost property	2
Proposed Holiday Dates 2027-2028 & 2028-2029	2
School Self Evaluation and Improvement Planning	2
Staffing	2
Session 26/27	3
Gaidhlig Engagement Afternoon for Parents	4
In school regular events	4
Dates for diaries	4
4) Gaelic Education Consultation - Guest speaker Bethan Owen	4
5) Aithris a' chathraiche - PC Chairs Update	6
6) Aithris an ionmhasair - Treasurer update	7
7) Event Updates - Fèill Samhraidh	8
8) Website Launch	8
9) Dèitichean nan Coinneamhan ri Thighinn - Date of Next Meeting	8

1) Fàilte agus facal tòisich bho na Cathraichean - Welcome from the Chairs

Welcome from chairs.



2) Gnothaichean ag èirigh agus aontachadh geàrr-chunntas na coinneimh mu dheireadh - Minutes of the previous meeting & matters arising

Accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Proposed by Laura Stewart and seconded by Nerissa Drennan-Lang.

3) Aithris a' cheannard - Headteacher Update

Pastoral Care Contacts

Karen Reid - Sgoil-àraich, C1 & C2
Sineag MacIntrye - C4, C5, C6
Laura Stewart - C3 & C7 & Support for learning

Lost property

There is still a lot of lost property, please label everything.

Proposed Holiday Dates 2027-2028 & 2028-2029

Required by council to do a consultation on proposed holiday dates. As a school, both parents and staff preferred option B.
For 2028 it may be that there are only 4 inservice days rather than 5.

School Self Evaluation and Improvement Planning

Time of year where the school starts thinking about the self-evaluation assessment, following a template from Education Scotland.

Guth Sgoilear group have designed a service for pupils, and the parent survey will be issued shortly. A school improvement plan will be submitted by mid-June. The plan is on a year 3 cycle, and Gaelic immersion remains the top priority.

Staffing

Hannah Deans returns to work, working one day a week.

Frances Bennett returns on 22nd June.

Vacancies for next session: 4 jobs. This covers one permanent post, 2 suitable for PRTS (new teachers; both temporary) and one that is a backfill for Mgr Vitry, who is taking a leave of absence next year.

The city wide recruitment process has concluded, and the matching will start, and the school should know by the end of the month.



Ongoing vacancies, the same as before, 2 EYPs and a C1 EYP.

Session 26/27

Currently 80 enrolled for C1. This has dropped from the last time, which was at 98, this is because deferrals and placing requests have started to be deducted. We are currently planning for 74 pupils, which is equivalent to 3 C1 classes.

- How is classing decided?

The number of classes is decided based on the number of pupils already enrolled and the predicted C1 intake. The council manages allocation centrally, to ensure that deferrals and placing requests are taken into account.

Usually most schools know by June, however the Gaelic school, this has sometimes changed up until August and the October break.

- Factors considered in classing reorganisation
 - Regardless of the type of class, the same selection criteria is used for all classes in school
 - Meeting learners needs
 - Age (stage appropriate)
 - Friendships
 - Gender balance
 - Exceptional circumstances

Not all criteria need to be used, but more than one criterion must be used. The specific criteria chosen will vary between schools and within school years. Professional judgement will be used to best meet the needs of learners in school.

- Proposed classing arrangements

This is new information, and there is no longer the expectation to have a composite class for years 2&3. This is the proposal as it stands today, and may change until October.

Class	Roll	Class	Roll
C1B	25	C4B	28
C1C	25	C4S	27
C1M	25	C5B	29
C2C	30	C5P	29
C2I	30	C6D	25
C2R	30	C6T	25
C3E	24	C7C	22
C3L	24	C7S	22
C3R	24		



Gaidhlig Engagement Afternoon for Parents

This was on **Friday 27th March**, and although not as well attended as hoped, however the feedback rated the event as good.

Feedback indicated:

- More notice required - Notice of a month was given
- Timing issues, other activities on Friday already
- Parents not clear on the what and the who of each event
- Many of the events were aimed at lower years - This was intentional, as it is important to start engagement in the lower years.

Based on the feedback, not yet sure in which direction this will be taken in future years.

In school regular events

Cafaidh Gaidhlig

Last Friday of the month 9.30 Talla Bidh

Leasan Gaidhlig airson Parantan

Last Wednesday of every month, per class

Dates for diaries

Là Spors - Sports Day: Wednesday 20th May in Pilrig Park

Là Spors Sgoil-Araich : Thursday 21st May in Pilrig Park

School finishes on **Friday 26th of June at 12 noon.**

4) Gaelic Education Consultation - Guest speaker Bethan Owen

Caroline and Nerissa have been part of a working group with the council, the school, and James Gillespie's representatives to discuss the future of Gaelic Education in Edinburgh. We are now looking to discuss thoughts with parents and wider stakeholders.

We have invited Bethan Owen to talk us through the next steps of the consultation process.

Brief introduction in the work that is being done, and asking for your thoughts.

The mandate of the group was to determine the best way to consult on what the future of GME in Edinburgh should be. We wanted to focus on the quality of learner provision, and how to improve the quality in future.

Events have already been held with staff, and the council attended a community event last Saturday. We will be present at Parent Teacher evenings and transition events.



Put together 2 focus groups of 8 people on Tuesday 19th May and Friday 29th. Looking for volunteers for this. The last time parents were consulted was in 2023. What was found last time was that in person events were the most valuable. There are surveys that are being created to be distributed to the school community too.

Aiming to get a broad picture of people's experience of GME, and ideas of how to implement the Gaelic language plan. It is a broad and ambitious task, and with the initial events, we have already expanded the number of groups we plan to engage with.

Additional comments can also be sent by email if you cannot attend any of the sessions. Clearest channel to submit these comments is to be determined, and will be shared.

Any questions from the audience about the consultation (all answers are from Bethan Owen):

- Would it be possible to see a schedule of all engagements that are happening, to be posted?
 - There is a draft, but I can firm it up and send it on.
- Bethag: Can you explain how this differs from the self-assessment undergone by the school? Your mandate seemed to be about quality, yet one of the biggest issues seems to be regarding capacity both in primary and the secondary levels. The assessment of quality seems to be ongoing as part of the normal life of the school, so why is the mandate quality, not capacity?
 - It differs because this mandate looks at the whole spectrum, from 0-18 as well as education beyond these years, and access to Gaelic for learners (i.e. In English language schools, learning Gaelic as an option). The specific remit was to improve the growth in quality, and access to wider options of Gaelic. We are not looking at availability of roles and capacity.
- Bethag: In what way do you think these issues can be separated? We can talk about quality up to a point, but at a certain point, you can't separate them if you don't have enough staff/space to provide good quality education. This is not a hypothetical question, this is happening in the primary school at the moment.
 - Points taken on board, there is a hope that the consultation is meaningful. I am not qualified to take the discussion forward about size and space within schools. Those points will need to be taken ahead in another forum.
- Bethag: Appreciate the point of view, but this is deja-vu, why are other people not involved in this conversation if there is a recognition that quality may suffer and is connected to size/spacing?
 - If the council want to take this forward, they will take it forward. From my purposes, I cannot expand the remit.
- Bethag: Next point to talk about would be assessment of quality. Based on the previous consultation, what are the positives and negatives based on the state of the quality at the moment?
 - Gaelic Language Plan and actions map out in detail the positives and negatives. This is not my role this evening to talk about this.
- Bethag: How are you going to reach people beyond GME? People with no background of Gaelic at all, and a cohort of Gaels who do not put their children in GME.



- Engagement programme includes linking in with Gaelic choirs, the Gaelic church, and various coffee and Gaelic groups. There is an extensive list of groups that we would like to engage. The initial engagements have already led to wider contacts with more groups.

One of the engagement events will be at the Gaelic Cafe on the 29th May at school.

5) Aithris a' chathraiche - PC Chairs Update

- o Gaelic Engagement Afternoon was interesting to attend.
- o As you have heard, been involved in a short-life working group, and encourage everyone to engage with the consultation you have just heard about from Bethan.
- o City-wide school engagement meeting for all the parent councils across the school - Taobh na Pàirce has a rising roll, where all other primaries are reducing. James Gillespie also has a rising roll and Caroline is sitting on the committee discussing the challenges about rising school roll.
- o Regular meeting with the Senior Leadership at school, and have raised issues such as school trips, maintenance of the school. If you have anything else you would like us to discuss at these meetings, please get in touch.
- o Gaelic Collaborative Forum - Gaelic stakeholders across the city meeting. Discussion was recruitment and retention, an issue that is especially important to us.
- o Summer Feill - Organisation is ongoing, volunteers are needed, including things before, if you cannot attend on the day.



6)Aithris an ionmhasair - Treasurer update

BALANCE SHEET AS AT	10 May 2026	
BANK BALANCE brought forward 01 Jan 2026	£14,184.74	
add income	£5,156.85	
less expenditure	-£7,902.09	
BANK BALANCE at 10 May 2026	£11,439.50	
Pending Income balances 10 May 2026		
Sumup	£0.00	
Stripe	£0.00	
Paypal	£0.00	
Pending Payout (Debtors)	£0.00	
Gross Assets	£11,439.50	
Ring Fenced Funds		
Winter Small Sums Scheme 2023	£3,770.38	Small Sums awards from Winter 2023
Spring Small Sums Scheme 2025	£168.94	Small Sums awards from Spring 2025
Small Sums Scheme 2025-2026 school year	£1,553.93	Earmarked to be responsive to eligible Small Sums projects <£250
Inclusion Fund 2025	£645.00	To be updated as drawn down by school
Gaelic cafe	£205.61	Card payments taken on behalf of school
Funds for Gaelic cultural workshops	£300.00	To be updated as drawn down by school
Ring Fenced Funds (Liabilities)	£6,643.86	
Estimated PC Uncommitted Funds (Net Assets)	£4,795.64	



A reminder that the Small Sums Scheme now operates on a continual basis. Apply using the online form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfvR0JZvjjD2SySIUkAVV-Bz9Yo3R13xyWXR0PChJLMbLn-g/viewform?usp=header>

There is still a decent pot of money available for the Small Sums, so please apply if you have any ideas, and that can include pupil ideas, with support from an adult.

7) Event Updates - Fèill Samhraidh

There is an active WhatsApp community, that is bringing together all the activities taking place this year. Please join to contribute.

[WhatsApp Link](#)

[Volunteer sign up sheet](#)

The Feill will be held on **Friday June 12th at 13.00.**

8) Website Launch

Our website has been fully updated and redone, with lots of useful information and links. It is now much clearer and provides a great starting point for any parents looking to engage with the parent council and its activities.

<https://parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk/>

Thank you very much to Eilidh Martin for all her hard work in redesigning the website, and maintaining it.

9) Dèitichean nan Coinneamhan ri Thighinn - Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be on **Wednesday the 16th September 2026 at 19.00.**