



Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce Comhairle nam Pàrant - 17mh Lùnastal 2025 19:15-20:15

Parent Council Minutes 17th September 2025 - 19:15-20:15

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 Nerissa Drennan-Lang and seconded by Laura Stewart.

3) Aithris a' cheannard - Headteacher Update

Pastoral care contacts reminder
Karen Reid: Sgoil-àraich, C1 & C2
Sineag MacIntyre: C4, C5, C6
Laura Stewart: C3 & C7

All contact should be made via the school office, who will forward onto the appropriate person.

- Incredibly proud of the children who created the Meas Mór rap song in Irish and Scottish Gaelic, a collaboration with Cork's Kabin Crew.
- Mobile Phone policy - mobile phones have been banned in Edinburgh school by Edinburgh city council. However, there has been no direct policy/guidance from the council, therefore policy implemented in Jun 2024 remains in place. Phones must be switched off during school hours and smart watches may be used but must not be connected to phones during school hours.
- Reminder of Strategic Educational Change presented at the recent Meet the teacher nights. As part of the 3 year policy, this year's focus is reading.



- Recruitment & Staffing

2 Probationer Teacher

3 new teachers recruited

1 new principal teacher with a remit for early years

Some of the new teachers are returners either as former staff or former pupils!

- 17 classes, total school roll 475 pupils. We are bucking the trend for schools in Edinburgh whose intakes have gone down. We are now the second largest school within our learning community (school cluster). Only Sciennes is larger.
- Impact of the rising roll:
 - Loss of general purpose spaces, relocation of the library and dedicated music room
 - Less working spaces for small group and 1:1 support
 - Increased volume of pupils in Talla Bidh, longer wait times
 - Pressure on Talla sports timetable
 - Higher volume of pastoral care caseload
 - Financial cost of kitting out two new classrooms has impacted on our budget
 - As the new C1 Open day approaches, we are asking for clarity for CEC around the new C1 intake for session 26-27
- Acoustics update. Work is scheduled to take place in talla bidh and oganan playroom over the october break. The two other halls require more creative solutions, due to the suspended lighting. Hopefully the council will provide the best solution for this. We also have conversations with CEC about repurposing two spaces as sensory rooms.
- School trips: Financial pressures have impacted the ability to manage school trips recently. But some trips are already planned.
 - Sgoil-àraich - Forest kindergarten after October break
 - C4 - Archaeological trip
 - C1 - Local area walks
 - C5 - Swimming starts next week
 - C7 - Capital Gaelic project, involving being water of leith tour guides
 - Whole school - rotating visits to Leith Library on Friday mornings
 - Parent volunteers welcome, regular volunteering requires a PVG check
- Dates for diaries. Last day of term is Friday, 19th December at 12 noon.
- Christmas update: Proposal of having Christmas concerts, led by the new music teacher Claire Francis MacNeil. Dates are not fully finalised, but proposal of Thursday 11th December and Friday 12th December, for classes C3-7, the 10 classes are performing as year groups.
- Gaelic lessons for parents run on last Wednesday of each month, 9.15-9.35 in class. C5 is the next upcoming class. This is only open to parents of the specific year group running the class.
- Cafaidh Gaidhlig - last Friday of the Month, 9.30 at talla bidh, and this is open to all parents, regardless of year! Please come.
- There are snacks going missing. Laura Stewart is only aware of items going missing when they are raised with her. A new system has recently been put in place, and it is evident that there are still some flaws in the system. Laura will remind staff of the new system and hopefully sort out teething issues.



4) PC Chairs Update

Delighted to meet a lot of new C1 parents at the C1 welcome picnic. Since last meeting, we have had the summer fair.

Playground a huge success, thank you to Rachael Tullo and Oliver Mezger.

ASN coffee mornings are starting up, led by Eleanor Rylah-Saha, providing support for parents of ASN children.

At the moment, we have been having meetings with the high school parent council to look at the future of GME and the increase in GME and the pressures that this gives. We will update in due course.

Christmas card templates were given to teachers today, and you will be able to buy christmas cards, this helps raise money for the school. The playground is an obvious thing that has benefitted from the fundraising.

If you are interested in helping with fundraising, or organising an event, please get in touch.

5) Approval of new constitution

Constitution has been made available on classlist for perusal, and it now needs to be approved.

Proposed by Nerissa Drennan-Lang and seconded by Rachael Tullo. Motion carried.

6) Election of PVG Officer

As a parent council, we now need to have a dedicated PVG officer and a people in positions of power on the PC, will require a PVG check.

Heather McGibbon has volunteered to become the officer.

Proposed by Nerissa Drennan-Lang and seconded by Rachael Tullo.

7) Aithris an ionmhasair - Treasurer update

Since the last meeting the major fundraising was:

- Total of £7,608 specifically for the playground (Thanks to Rachael Tullo!) which has been transferred to school
- Profit of £4,108 from Fèill Samraidh

We also continue to get small regular amounts from Easyfundraising and the School Lottery. A reminder that these are ways for families to contribute.

We spent on:

- £7,608 contribution to the playground
- £1,100 for school jumpers for C1s
- Cakes for staff at the end of school year



We also:

- Spent the money families had contributed specifically for teacher gifts
- Transferred £395 to school, the amount collected on school's behalf for card payments at the Gaelic cafes
- Received funds from a BnaG grant, which we are holding on behalf of school so we can administer corresponding payments.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT	02 Sep 2025	
BANK BALANCE brought forward 01 Jan 2025	£16,669.16	
add income	£18,434.32	
less expenditure	-£18,384.30	
BANK BALANCE at 02 Sep 2025	£16,719.18	
Pending Income balances 02 Sep 2025		
Sumup	£0.00	
Stripe	£0.00	
Paypal	£0.00	
Pending Payout (Debtors)	£0.00	
Gross Assets	£16,719.18	
Ring Fenced Funds		
Winter Small Sums Scheme 2023	£3,770.38	Small Sums awards from Winter 2023
Spring Small Sums Scheme 2025	£1,132.00	Small Sums awards from Spring 2025
Inclusion Fund 2025	£1,172.50	To be updated as drawn down by school
Funds for Gaelic cultural workshops	£300.00	To be updated as drawn down by school
Gaelic cafe donations for school	£0.00	Card payments received on behalf of school
BnaG Funds for Gaelic Classes	£15.00	Residual after being drawn down by tutors
BnaG grant	£1,563.00	Grant held on behalf of school
Ring Fenced Funds (Liabilities)	£7,952.88	
Estimated PC Uncommitted Funds (Net Assets)	£8,766.30	

We need to vote on:

- Use of Fèill Samraidh funds. These are usually transferred to school funds. Proposed by Nerissa Drennan-Lang and seconded by Heather McGibbon
- Whether any surplus should be spent. Recommend this is up to £2,000 to keep sufficient funds for upfront payment of costs. One possible use is for another round of Small Sums Scheme, but recommend this is paused until a panel has been formed to reconsider the scheme.

8) Small Sums Scheme

Reminder to all who have been awarded Small Sums Schemes funding: Please submit receipts to treasurer@parantantaobhnairce.org.uk by the end of **2025**. We are still holding large amounts of unspent awards.



The scheme is not currently working as intended with limited and often repeated applications, lack of representation in the decision-making process, and delays being able to spend the awarded funds to implement the intended projects.

We are looking for a parent volunteer to convene and chair a panel to reconsider the scheme, with guidance and support from the treasurer, to make sure spending is aligned with the aims of the Parent Council, and benefits as many children as possible across the school.

Inna Yaneva-Toraman would like to volunteer for the small sums scheme.

We have received an updated application from Ball-coise, who are not currently able to implement the intended purpose of their award from the last round (£625 for storage, conditional on feasibility) They are seeking £636 for equipment instead. If we decide to delay opening for new bids until the scheme has been reconsidered, we should vote on whether this revised application can be accepted (full or part award) as an out-of-cycle exception. This modification has been proposed by Nerissa Drennan-Lang and Becka Gould and accepted by the parent body.

9) Togail Airgid agus Tachartasan - Fundraising and Events

a) Gardening Group update

The people that have organised the gardening group of the last few years are looking to pass on the mantle to a new team. Some kids have left the school and other parents have had a change in their job schedule so can only come occasionally.

The group fulfills two functions:

Firstly engaging with the kids by getting them to help with gardening tasks which has included growing seedlings to plant out, being about at playtime sometimes with tasks on hand and giving garden tours to the younger classes to encourage them to nature and not destroy the plants in the playground.

The second function is to nurture the growing areas in the playground to create and maintain an attractive and functional space.

Different permutations of the gardening group have done this in different ways and at different times of the week down the years depending on what suits the parents delivering it.

The new team needs a combination of people that like running activities with kids and one or two people with a little gardening knowledge. Previous members will drop in when they can if wanted but this may only be a few times a term.

If you are interested a previous member will be running a wee tour of the garden, whats been done in the past and point put any urgent jobs on Friday 26th September. Meet at the office just after 11am.



If you are interested and whether or not you can make this tour please get in touch at tnpgardening@gmail.com and join the class list gardening group.

b) Halloween update

School let form has been submitted, awaiting confirmation from the council. Date of the party has been set for 7th November, this is different to the original school calendar, as the date has had to change.

The volunteer list will soon be available on classlist to sign up.

We are also looking for new lights for the hall for the actual disco.

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

The date of the next meeting is on Monday 10th November at 19.00 on TEAMS.