

CARSTAIRS PARENT PARTNERSHIP – MEETING MINUTES



Date	Began	Ended	Location	Type (Staff/Group/Management)
20.05.24	6.30pm	8pm	School	Parent Partnership Meeting

Attendees

Jill McQuigg (JM, chair), Michelle Gardiner (MG, treasurer), Sharon Corrigan (SC), Sarann Lewis, Susan Notman (SN), Rebecca Stewart (RS), Miss Sneddon (HT) and Mrs Whitehead (PT).

Apologies –, Louise Taylor, Clare Boyle and Michelle Warren.

No.	Agenda Item	Who
1.	Welcome	JM
2.	Previous minutes	JM
3.	Financial Report	MG
4.	Headteacher Report	HT
5.	Date of Future Meeting	All
6.	A.O.C.B	All

Minutes

1. Welcome

JM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Previous Minutes

Previous minutes accepted as an accurate record.

SC gave an update on the village hall. After the initial meeting to save the hall, volunteer committees have been set up. The process has began for a takeover/asset transfer. The good news is that the hall will not be closing by the end of May.

3. Financial Report

See accounts.

MH stated that not much had changed in the accounts from the last meeting. We received money in for the leaver's hoodies and EasyFundraising. Money went out for the hoodies and sports t-shirts. HT confirmed that the Rag Bag bin will be emptied, and a cheque should be received soon for that.

JM informed the meeting that we came first in the Tesco community grant (blue tokens) and will receive £1,500. The acceptance form has been completed and the money should be received in the next few weeks. The grant is for extra curricular clubs, resources, and excursions.

4. Headteacher Report

HT provided an update for all present. Bullet points below highlight the key themes within the update and key discussion areas that HT sought discussion and dialogue around:

- Staff Absence Term 4 (April to present date)

Update on current position provided. Ongoing staff absence, implications for classes and impact on term highlighted. HT noted that consistency for children's learning and routines was being kept at fore front of decision making. All staff were praised for the strong team work and can-do attitudes that continue to be evident and in particular in teaching staff, Miss Colligan and Mrs Guthrie were praised for effectively taking on extra teaching responsibilities, with energy and enthusiasm, within challenging circumstances.

- School Improvement Plan Update

Strategic Priority 1 (Curriculum) - HT highlighted had been impacted by staff absence in terms of HWB developments, but that this was expected to be overtaken by the end of term, with Mrs Aitken working on completing the updated HWB planning. HT re-iterated the themes that had emerged from consultation with parents around local priorities for HWB (risk - road risk, water risk, railway risk, substance abuse and lifestyle choice risk). Embers Aquatics (Social Enterprise) Water Workshops went ahead in school for all classes last week, as a direct result of the feedback gathered from families. Literacy targets have all been overtaken and positive impact noted in children's spelling and handwriting. School on track to submit any time now for Digital Wellbeing Award - NW, PT, gathering final evidence to submit.

Strategic Priority 2 (Learning, Teaching and Assessment) - HT highlighted on track with targets within this priority overall but mentioned not spending as much time to moderate with other schools as much as would have liked and noted moderation an area for ongoing attention in new school session. Moderation for Listening and Talking which included partnership working with another Learning Community School was particularly effective this session.

Strategic Priority 3 (Sustainability) - HT highlighted fully on track with this target. Eco Flag 7 obtained earlier in the year and Mrs Allan working on gathering evidence to submit for Eco Flag number 8. Quest for next flag is well supported by recent installation of polytunnel and the fact that all classes have now started to make use of the polytunnel for planting and growing.

Strategic Priority 4 (Closing the Gap & Raising Attainment) - HT highlighted that all planned actions within this priority had been overtaken and shared headline messages around projected attainment for the session. It was noted that the anticipated results suggest positive impact of the work done in this area. HT noted attendance rates as a barrier to learning and noted that links between attendance and non-attainment of Curriculum for Excellence levels are noted, recognised and acted upon, but in some cases, this is still not going quite far enough.

- Updated Curriculum Rationale

An updated draft of our school's Curriculum Rationale was shared with all in attendance at the meeting for discussion and comment. Additions were suggested by attendees, in support of aligning the document more fully with our unique context and agreement was reached on the content available. HT indicated that the draft would be further updated, based on discussion and suggestions made, and revised document would be shared with whole school community for comment before the end of term.

- Attendance

This theme was discussed in greater detail and HT highlighted that on the date of the discussion, 15.3% of learners had an attendance rate of less than 90%. It was noted that links between lower attendance rates and groups perceived to be affected by poverty, could be drawn from available school data. This opened up a dialogue about supporting best attendance in a way that was more nurturing than 'warning' letters. This also opened up a discussion about family holidays during term time.

It was agreed that attendance awards were not appropriate, and it was felt that going down the line of becoming involved with the Invisible Backpack (Barnardos) project, was perhaps a more preferable option, to further support the strong attendance of all learners. It was felt that this was more in keeping with the strong desire to continue to maintain warm, positive and supportive relationships. HT will pursue this Barnardos partnership for inclusion in the School Improvement Plan next session.

It was agreed that continuing to shine a light on the longer term impact of poor attendance in whole school communications was appropriate.

HT thanked Parent Partnership for their input on curriculum rationale update and attendance support ideas.

- Classes for session 2024/25

HT highlighted that we will reduce to five classes from six next session, based on numbers. Staffing is not yet confirmed. Composite classes throughout the school are to be expected once again. SN asked about P1 intake and HT confirmed that we have 6 P1 children enrolled for the new session, at this point.

5. Date of Future Meeting

To be confirmed.

6. AOCB

- JM asked for suggestions on how we could increase our attendance at meetings going forward. A suggestion was made to have the option to join the meeting online if you cannot attend in person. It was also suggested that a later start time of 7pm would be better. A display will be made for new P1 parents to encourage participation/interest. It was discussed to have a diary of events made available at the beginning of the term so everyone can see where we may need help. The possibility of children attending was raised as this may solve childcare issues. HT explained that children would have to be supervised in the school.