

Milngavie Primary Parent Council

Annual Report 2024-2025

Introduction:

The Parent Council is a group of parents who represent all parent's/carer's views and work in partnership with the school to achieve the best for all pupils. The PC is used to represent matters of interest from the parent forum, and is pleased to work in a consultative role with the school in relation to education policy and the school building. There is an important role for the PC to play in improving links between all parents and the school.

After a few years post Covid with only 3 members, last year the PC had increased to 9 members with Karen Reid as chair and Mandy McCormick as vice-chair. At the end of the last year Shona Houston stepped down, Shona made a valuable contribution to the PC liaising with Mrs Anderson on sports activities and opportunities. Jill Christie is now joining the PC maintaining our numbers at 9. I wish to thank all parent council members for their continued support and contribution to the group.

Current PC members:

Karen Reid: Chair

Mandy McCormick: Vice chair

Jill Castle: Secretary

Callum Grant

Dominique Matheson

Ian Gallagher

Jill Christie

Jane Couper

Susie Orell

Parent Council Meetings:

- AGM 30th October 2024
- 13th January (informal not minuted)
- 6th March 2025
- 18th June 2025
- 17th September (informal not minuted)

Parent Council Forum Meetings:

These are meetings attended by all EDC school parent council chairs with representatives of EDC including the Chief Education Officer Greg Bremner and give PC chairs a chance to comment on presentations on proposed education policy and practice. Meetings this year were on:

- 22nd October: CIRCLE framework: Whole Family Wellbeing Fund and Parental Involvement Strategy: Communication
- 11th March: Vision, Values & Aims and Dyslexia and Literacy Strategy
- 20th May: Mobile Phone use in Schools and PVG requirement
- Connect: 3rd September: New members session

Summary of Activities:

- Most activities over the last year have been focused on the refurbishment of the school buildings which will be covered in a separate section.
- The PC has represented parents to both EDC and MPS on issues ranging from chaperones, bus provision, class layout, teacher allocation, after school care, school club provision, P7 transition activities, P6 swimming classes, length of school day, missed learning time, transition back to MPS.
- This has involved regular meetings with
 - o MPS HT Garry Graham
 - o MPS DHT Tracey Stilwell
 - o MPS DHT Eilidh McLaren
 - o EDC Chief Education Officer Greg Bremner
 - o EDC School Planning & Improvement Manager Gavin Haire
 - o Assets and Facilities Executive Officer Alan Bauer
- A new constitution was drafted, issued for comment and adopted (copy available on MPS website.)
- The MPS website was updated to include current PC members, minutes of previous PC meetings and the PC constitution are also available on the website. The PC email address will be added to the MPS website as with the decant this is the best way to contact the PC with any issues parents would like to discuss. milngavieprimaryparentcouncil@gmail.com
- The PC have continued to ask for updates on the proposals for the new nursery. Planning permission was not possible on the site of the old Caretakers cottage as the building cannot be demolished due to being in a conservation area. The project is progressing through Stage 1 of the design process and EDC expect to report on progress later in the year. It will almost certainly be a new build on or adjacent to the existing site rather than using the former janitor's house.
- EDC have purchased Connect memberships for all PCs. Connect helps parents, carers and parent groups to be involved and engaged in children's learning and school lives and will be a valuable resource for the PC in particular

in helping with the Protection of Vulnerable Groups scheme that is now a requirement for volunteers for school activities and events.

- Occasionally the PC are able to help with something not to do with refurbishing the school like getting a parent new to the school added to the year group WhatsApp chat or getting a P7 a ticket for the leavers dance at the last minute.

Repair and Protect – Campaign and Progress

Background

Following a meeting in the Burnbrae on 3rd September last year, an Action Group was set up to address major concerns around the condition of the school buildings and the postponement of the planned school refurbishment. As a result of responses to a Form issued to all parents in the school, it was agreed to launch a campaign with the main objectives to repair the school, and to protect the school as a community on its current site.

The Action Group on WhatsApp had around 150 members, including 40 who had volunteered to serve on smaller committees with a specific focus, e.g. mainstream and social media, community engagement and legal and financial aspects. We engaged with local councillors, MSPs, local businesses and residents, and media outlets including STV and the Glasgow Times, to raise awareness and support for our campaign.

In October, after last year's AGM, a serious incident occurred where a heavy MDF panel 'patch' fell from the ceiling of a classroom. Thankfully, no one was injured; however, this incident had the potential to be catastrophic. A subsequent article, featuring interviews and concerns from different families in the school community, was published on the BBC news.

Proposed Repairs and Decant

Following an EDC meeting with school staff, members of the PC met with EDC officers on Wednesday 11th December at 4.15pm where £8m repair proposals were unveiled for the first time. EDC's preferred option was a full school decant of infants to St Nicholas and upper school to Torrance, for the duration of the works, in order to be cost and time effective. We were instructed to keep this meeting confidential until the papers were published at 5pm the following day.

We issued a Form to all parents/ carers on Friday 13th December to try and accurately gauge opinion so that we could fairly represent the views of the wider parent forum. 226 responses were received, 56% of parents were minded to support with further detail required. Members of the PC met with Alan Bauer and Greg Bremner at Southbank Offices on 17th December to present and discuss all questions and concerns raised.

The proposal was ultimately accepted at Council on Thursday 19th December, and we agreed to attempt to work closely with officers and the school.

EDC Rationale and Decant Timeline Plans

EDC issued a decant plan in January, and responses to FAQs, which is published on the school website: School Decant - Milngavie Primary

Milngavie Primary School is being decanted for the period of up to 1 year to allow for maintenance works to take place in both the main and infant buildings. The work that is required to take place includes replacement roofs, replacement windows and repairs to stonework and pointing of both buildings. In order to complete this work, the contractor and project team require full access to the school with no pupils or staff in the building. With the decant of the number of pupils from the school, there is no other school within the authority that could accommodate all pupils. Due to this, the Estate has been surveyed and the alternative is to place the P1-3 pupils into St Nicholas' Primary School and the P4-7 pupils into Torrance Primary School. Both of these schools are under capacity and can accommodate the increase in the number of pupils. An option of the use of modular units for a period of 1 year was discounted due to the prohibitive costs associated.

Parents were offered an opportunity to meet and speak to EDC officers involved in the project 20th February. The PC have sought to maintain an open dialogue with EDC and pursue current and relevant information as required.

Current Status and Plans

- Report from HT states that children have settled in well to both St Nicholas and Torrance.
- After some initial issues with the buses, the school took over the management of the transport from SPT, and the system seems to be working well.
- Netball, football, chess and coding will run as lunchtime clubs. We will continue to liaise with the school about possible provision of clubs and access to swimming for P6, as well as trips and excursions (particularly for P7).
- We will support the PTA in any planned activities and efforts to raise funds and unite the whole school community.

Building Update (issued today 24th September)

Since the project commenced in July, good progress has been made in the refurbishment of both buildings, with the following works either in progress or now complete:

- Scaffolds and roof tents erected over both buildings
- Roofs stripped of existing tiles and further survey works concluded
- Substantially completed Junior Building roof replacement
- Completed Junior Building windows replacement
- Completed Main Building Doff Clean (this is the cleaning of the external sandstone)

Further works planned in the coming weeks to the Main Building include:

- Rot Repair Works

- Sarking Replacement
- Lead Installation
- Stone Repair Works

At the Junior Building, the following works will be progressed in the coming weeks:

- Doff Cleaning Works
- Rot Repair Works
- Sarking Replacement

A more detailed update, along with progress photographs, will be issued to the school community in coming weeks.

Priorities for coming year:

The PC will continue to put forward ideas, concerns and solutions from the wider parent body and to support parents to be involved in the life of the school. The main focus will continue to be the ongoing refurbishment and repair works to the school buildings, but we also will look at the

- Helping MPS and parents with the new PVG requirement
- Ensure P7s do not miss out on any of the standard transition activities due to the decant
- Advocate for P6 swimming lessons
- Help facilitate school clubs via Skills Academy afternoons
- Help facilitate parent involvement in school activities for both Sport and STEM
- Improvements to the school playground
- Upgrades to the school furniture in the upper building