

Annual General Meeting-

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING WINDYKNOWE PS

DATE: Thursday 19th September 2024 **TIME:** 6.00PM **VENUE:** Windyknowe Primary School

ATTENDEES – SCHOOL	APOLOGIES
Mr Cloherty	Michelle Blackley
Ms Norquoy	Dionne Haggerty
	Claire Mitchell
ATTENDEES – PARENT / CARERS	Rachel Aitken
Donna McLeary- PC Chair	
Jacqui Keast	
Lesley Forrest	
Claire Anderson	
Helen Thomson	
Jillian Jamieson	
Laura Weir	
Rebecca Westworth	
Adil Shabbir	
Laura – Galileo Energy	
Chris – Galileo Energy	

Introductions and Apologies

Apologies read and shared with group by Chair. Introductions made between parents present and Mr Cloherty.

Agenda Points Submitted

- 1. Continued on from our last meeting, have the locks on the boys toilets been fixed?**
These were fixed at time, however, there is a further lock which has been broken this term. School are aware and are endeavouring to have this repaired.
Action- school
- 2. Can a reminder be sent out to say no dogs are allowed in the school grounds?**
School agreed to send a Groupcall out to remind all parents and carer's that pets are not allowed in the school grounds. Please can parents/ carers share this information with individuals who collect their children.
Action- school
- 3. Some parents are concerned over class changes for next year as this was done at Mr Cloherty's previous school and parents would feel this could cause an impact on their overall development if they are split up?**
Mr Cloherty shared that the context at Windyknowe is that it is a 2-stream school. This means for each year group, with exception of p1, there are 2 classes. Where schools have a different make up of year groups then they (other schools) have had to have some

composite classes. At his previous school Mr Cloherty took into consideration parental wishes for changes as parents had voiced then they did not wish for their children to always be in composite classes. Mr Cloherty shared with the Windyknowe Parent Council he is open to considering a model whereby the children mix for future years or for remaining as is. He has suggested PC consult other parents and bring back to a PC meeting.
Action- PC, to be discussed / delegated at next meeting

4. Lunch hall concerns: Children are coming home saying there is no or one staff member in the lunch hall and can't ask for help? Can more adults be in the lunch hall to support all children especially the children who require more support and extra time?

School advised there are adults in the Dining Hall. There are 5 ladies out over lunch: 3 behind the servery, 1 supporting tidying up, 1 supporting the packed lunch area. For the first 3 weeks of the academic year there were also p1 teachers present. This has been reduced since the September weekend. P7 pupils are in the dining hall with their responsibility being to pour milk and water for the younger pupils. Some of the younger pupils are reporting that they do not have enough time to finish their lunches and that they need support sometimes with opening some of their packets/ meal. Ms Norquoy acknowledged the P2 year group are later in their lunch sitting. Lunch and breaktimes are supported by school staff: there is a presence of leadership team in addition to the 6 PSWs who are outside during break/ lunchtimes. Ms Norquoy shared where the different members of staff are placed in the playground to support the pupils and maintain safety.

Action – School, Mr Cloherty to arrange a small consultation with the pupils in the school.

5. Battery Power Station

Two representatives from Galileo Energy attended PC meeting to discuss their proposal of a Battery Station near Windyknowe.

They are a renewable energy company who are currently looking to place a battery storage unit near the school behind Middle Rigg farm on the road to Armadale. Site not "well visible" they shared. When constructed/ approved there would be new trees planted to keep the station out of sight. They are intending to submit proposal next month. Offering to offer some time to Windyknowe pupils to learn about renewable energy and offer visits to the site. Community benefit proposal- to offer £5k/ year to community, this may be to community council £2.5k council and £2.5k to health. Lifetime duration of project 40yrs. When operational they advised additional traffic near the school would be only 2 vans per month. During the building phase there are plans to minimise road disruption and parent council were advised traffic or road closures would not be on road to Windyknowe. Noise levels were queried during construction period. No identified risk shared. Galileo Energy advised no risks around the removal of the current substation. Concerns around fire raising were discussed as concern as SFS does not have the equipment. Galileo Energy stated that the English fire chief has recommended fire prevention measures which they are keen to follow. Currently working with SFS to discuss their concerns. When asked about other sites, Galileo advised this would be their third site and the other two are not near schools, this would be their first one from their company near a school.

Galileo Energy shared benefits to the local community as having access to renewables, the rates from this going to WLC not residents, increased employment opportunities during the building phase.

Galileo Energy offered they will send presentation to PC and then plan to go to wider school community. Some members of PC had been invited via a flyer through their door to an open event by Galileo Energy to attend a consultation meeting which Mr Cloherty and Ms Norquoy attended on behalf of school. Mr Cloherty shared the school would struggle to

object if there were concerns as WLC are having a focus on renewable energy hence why he invited them to PC to raise awareness amongst parents.

6. Smartphone clarification – Is there any way the school can have a complete ban on smartphones during school hours and only use school devices for their learning? Due to this impacting the children’s mental health.

A member of PC shared a smartphone free childhood website highlighting this contains information around the impact mobile phone use can have on the children’s welfare and mental health. PC discussed some of the concerns discussed around social media use, it was highlighted the legal age for the platforms discussed were over 11 years old. The use of social media is banned during the school day. Digital technology is supported by Windyknowe for pupils to use for particular tasks to support their learning. It is not compliant with the agreement made between pupil, parent and school for these to be used to make calls or messages during the school day, they are banned from playground. Mr Cloherty shared nationally there is studies looking at impact on mental health in Scotland, there is a push on digital technology. He is keen to support with educating the children with their own technologies around safe usage. A complete ban in school can make it challenging to teach children this. School do have some laptops which are available for pupils to access during the school day for particular periods of work. Pupils from P4 have the opportunity to bring a device from home, this is not compulsory but an option available to pupils once signed paperwork returned from consenting parents. The PSA have advised they have previously offered have some funds to school to purchase equipment.

7. Bullying – Parents across the school feel there is a lack of consequences for children who are misbehaving and find it untrue that every child’s needs are catered for’. Can there be more put in place to support positive and kind behaviour in school?

The school advised they are unable to share the consequences given as a result of an incident, but did highlight these are not always visible to others due to the school supporting the needs of each pupil at the school. As a staff team the teachers and leadership team are planning to revisit the Positive Behaviour Protocol. The school has started by bringing in the positive praise postcard.

Children earn 5 minutes per day for reward time and can spend the time on a Friday using the 25minutes.

Action- school to review the Positive Behaviour Protocol

8. Change the next parent council meeting due to Bonfire night?

Wed 6th November for next PC meet at 6pm

9. Float committee have acknowledge Float fundraising coffee morning is week before payday in January and requested if this could be changed to allow more parents to support.

New agreed date- Friday 7th February, 2025 for coffee morning.

Action- School- To send a message to all parents/ carers to inform of new date of Float fundraising coffee morning.

10. Nursery reopened at 52 wks, parents have voiced disappointment that they were not consulted around it being 39week.

Mr Cloherty advised this is a council decision, not his. He shared if anyone wishes to discuss with WLC Education Dept customer services will be able to support if a parent wishes to contact them.

Future Dates of Windyknowe Parent Council Meetings, all Parents Carers welcome:

- Wednesday 6th November 2024
- Wednesday 22nd January 2025
- Thursday 24th April 2025
- Tuesday 10th June 2025