

A photograph of a yellow wall with the school name 'Kinnaird Primary School' in large, silver, 3D-style letters. The wall is part of a building with a grey roofline. In the background, there are trees and a clear sky.

Kinnaird Primary School

Kinnaird Parent Council

Chairperson's Annual Report – 10th September 2009

Good evening and welcome to Kinnaird Parent Council's AGM.

Introduction

This report aims to provide the Parent Forum with an update on the work carried out by the Parent Council for school session ending June 2009. It briefly details the Parent Council membership, its meetings, feedback, this year's achievements and our aims for the future. *(The PTA is separate from the PC and has produced its own report).*

Members

We currently have nine parent members (max number is ten) and therefore have one vacancy. The Parent Council may co-opt up to five additional members to assist it with carrying out its functions. Two will be drawn from the PTA (currently occupied by Lynsey Donnelly and Cathie Hunter) and additional members may be drawn from the school staff or the wider local community. Julie MacNeil is currently the teaching staff representative. This currently leaves two co-opted member vacancies.

During the past two years I have been privileged to have been the first Chairperson of Kinnaird Parent Council. I have found it to be informative, interesting and at times challenging. However, I now feel that the time is right for other members having the opportunity to serve as Chair. With this in mind I am standing down as Chair at this meeting but will remain a member. We will also be seeking to elect a new Vice Chair.

Meetings

The Parent Council have met six times since the last AGM. We expect to meet at least once every school term (4 times per year) unless additional meetings are required to discuss specific topics.

As Chairperson, I feel that the biggest challenge for the Parent Council is raising its profile and ensuring good communication to the wider Parent Forum. This evening is one of those occasions whereby we have attempted to publicise ourselves.

Parents are very welcome to attend Parent Council meetings. We always try to allocate some time during the meeting for any parental questions and discussion (length of time depends on agenda).

Feedback

This year the Parent Council achieved a greater degree of feedback from the Parent Forum. This was in part achieved by having a PC information stand at the Parents Evenings. The theme was 'Talk to your PC!' The feedback given by parents and carers was very positive.

Copies of the latest Parent Council minutes can be located on Falkirk Council web site. Alternatively you can obtain a copy from the School Office or view them on the Parent Council notice board at the school entrance.

Now that we are well established, the meetings are quite productive. Hopefully we will see an increase in the support and input from the Parent Forum during the course of this school session. As previously stated, parents are always welcome to attend the meetings.

Successes & Achievements

• Park Smart Campaign



The Parent Council had information stands at the Parents Evenings in November which were well received. The Police kindly donated some road safety material for the children and Education Services kindly donated some Parental Involvement banners with the school providing the stands. All Parents/Carers were asked to undertake surveys and complete questionnaires, which proved very useful.

The success of our Parents Evenings led to an article being published in Falkirk Council's Education Services Newsletter called 'Parents as Partners.' This publicity led to other local schools in the area contacting Kinnaird Parent Council for advice and help in trying to reduce parking/congestion problems at their schools.

• Road Safety

Following on from the launch of our Park Smart Campaign in September 2008, we now have enforceable double yellow lines on the roads outside the school, resulting in limited on street parking. This successful campaign has ensured that our children can walk to/from the nearest part of the school safely. We also have a 20mph zone which is enforceable when the road signs are flashing. These are significant achievements within a relatively short timescale (18 months). The implementation would have taken far longer but for the efforts from the Parent Council, School Senior Management Team, Falkirk Council & CALA. Overall it has been an extremely positive cross sector partnership working.

• Walking Routes to School

The Parent Council is fully committed in encouraging children who live within the immediate catchment area to walk to school, rather than travel by car.

The Parent Council were successful in grant funding from Falkirk Council for projects aimed at marketing and promoting projects which tackle the school run. Each child received an umbrella in the Kinnaird Colours which have the school name and a catchy slogan printed on them, chosen by the children. We were also fortunate to receive some adult umbrellas. These were issued to parents who participated in walking their child(ren) to school - This was done by way of a free prize draw.



• Walk to school week / Walking Bus

Supported by both the Parent Council and school and in conjunction with Falkirk Council's Transport Planning Unit, this event was a huge success with 84% of pupils walking to school during 'walk to school week'. The walking bus had an exceptional turnout with the children enjoying the occasion. Children received various gifts for participating (eg. foam hands and stickers).

• Road Gritting

Following representations from The Parent Council/School and in conjunction with the housing developers, Falkirk Council agreed to grit the unadopted roads outside the school during winter months, when necessary.

- **Scottish Government Funding**

Following a request from both the school and Parent Council, funding was received via Falkirk Council's Transport Planning Unit for a cycle/scooter shelter at the front of the school.



- **Smart Board**

An employer of a Parent Council member very kindly donated £1,800 for the purchase of a smart board. This is now fully operational.

- **Planters**

Funding was given for the purchase of plants located in the planters outside the school entrance.

Our Aims

These are set out in the Constitution and we will continue to deal with fresh challenges and issues through time, to meet the needs of the school and wider community. This year the purchase of a replacement school minibus will be one of several priorities and will be of a significant cost. However, overall we are fortunate that by having a new school, a number of issues that affect other School Parent Council's are not applicable at Kinnaird Primary School.

We have already made significant achievements into areas we considered high priority. However as the Parent Council represents the views of all parents, we would welcome your views and thoughts on what you would like the Parent Council to try and achieve this school session or in the future.

In concluding, I would like to thank the following people:

Firstly, Pamela Adamson (HT) and Laura McLintock (DHT) for their significant involvement, advice and input on a whole range of educational issues.

Mike Newall (former Development Manager, CALA) for his considerable help and support, particularly with his involvement with the Park Smart Campaign.

Lynn Slavin (Acting Transport Projects Co-ordinator) from Falkirk Council's Transport Planning Unit for both her and her team's contribution to several of our key projects. Also special thanks to Lynn for being able to attend some of the Parent Council meetings.

And finally, a special thank you to all the Parent Council members who have given up a considerable amount of their own time, whether it be during the day, evenings or weekends in order to make a worthwhile, meaningful and valuable contribution to the safety & education of the children attending Kinnaird Primary School.

Stan Brown
Chairperson
10th September 2009®

chair@kinnairdparentcouncil.org.uk
www.kinnairdparentcouncil.org.uk