



2016/2017 Progress Report

The Parent Council has a formal role to ensure parent's views are represented.

Over the last 12 months we have made positive progress to support the school in a variety of ways, and this has been achieved by active contributions from members willing to get involved and through regular attendance at our meetings.

We said we'd provide a voice for parents on subjects important to them and their children

- We campaigned and continued to work on the Network Rail proposal to relocate the A71 through the school playing field. This project took hundreds of hours by the small team: Bronwen Smyth, Billy Daly, Arron Boyd, Andy Shaw and Peter Vincent. We met with Council Execs numerous times to progress options and understand the impact. The end result is what we strived for – and the road was not built in the school grounds. A huge thank you to all involved and to parents who raised their views with the Council.
- We helped distribute the school surveys at Parents Evenings, talking to parents and printed 'volunteering in school' leaflets to help raise awareness.
- The Facebook page was set up to primarily share details of Network Rail's plans, but we extended this as a trial, to bridge the communication gap for parents for school updates.
- We escalated matters on unsafe gas housing, dog fouling, cleaning/grounds and maintenance issues and continue to meet the local Police and Roads team from the Council for parking issues.
- Input to the new high school consultation - feeding in ideas and concerns on road safety, buses and walking to school routes.
- We attended meetings with other Parent Councils and West Lothian Council.

We said we'd work with the school to involve more parents in their children's learning

- Bronwen attended the P1 transition evening and explained what we do, together with the updated leaflet in the P1 starter pack.

We said we'd make better use of the wide range of skills and experience parents can offer

- We used small groups to tackle issues, e.g. Network Rail and through this we were also able to point out the lack of investment in school – gutters, P1 play area and footpath quality.
- Bronwen put together several volunteer newsletter updates to encourage parents/carers to help out in school.

We said we'd support the school in developing strong home/school partnerships

- We're part of the 'SPTC Partnership Schools initiative' which is looking at how parents get more involved. Suggested we look at Save the Children schools programme for ideas.

We said we'd support the school in its development and improvement, recruitment and school inspections

- Recruitment activity support for the Acting Head Teacher – Stephen & Bronwen updated the job description for online advertisements. Arron & Bronwen trained to conduct interviews.
- Put regular updates in the school newsletter, created volunteer profiles and leaflets were updated.

We said we'd work with the school to make links with the wider community

- School Savings Bank/Credit Union is organised by Lorna Graham - a group of volunteers come into school every week to help children save their money.
- Helped promote community events from the Community Council, Community Development Trust and Church events e.g. Summer holiday club.
- Organised with CDT (Stephen Brockbank) to have new planters in the school grounds.
- Linked with the West Calder Business Association to support with Careers Fortnight.

"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much" Helen Keller