

Minutes for the Parent Council meeting held on 23rd September at Bearsden Academy:

Bearsden Academy Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Date: 23rd September 2025

Time: 6:30–7:30pm

Location: Bearsden Academy

Chair: [To be confirmed at AGM]

Clerk: [To be confirmed at AGM]

Present: Laura Law (HT), Erin Smyth (DHT), Andrea Wieler Goodbrand, Jenny Jennings, Kirsten Flynn, Jenny Soraghan, Victoria Brunt, Susan Cummings, Caroline MacFarlane, Shona Smilie, Julie Tortolano, Emily Roberts.

Apologies: Lucy O'Neill, Laura Finnie, Taryn Pollock

1. Parent Council Vacancies

Vacancies remain for Parent Council representatives in classes 2B, 3B, 6B, and 7B. Parents are encouraged to come forward.

2. Chair and Clerk Positions

Both Chair and Clerk positions are currently vacant. Victoria and Andrea have volunteered for these roles. Options for co-chairing or appointing a vice-chair were discussed. Final decisions will be made at the upcoming AGM. If additional candidates come forward, a vote will be held.

3. Head Teacher's Report

The Head Teacher (HT) provided an update on current school matters (details not specified in these minutes).

4. PVG Requirements

New PVG regulations are in effect. Parents in regulated roles (e.g. PC, PTA, event volunteers) must have EDB-approved PVG clearance. PTA members have begun registering; PC members are encouraged to do the same. External visitors (e.g. book readers) do not require PVG if supervised by a teacher.

5. Infant Collection and Drop-Off

Collection is running smoothly. However, drop-off remains congested due to parents blocking gates. It was suggested that parents move to the back of the tarmac triangle after drop-off to ease congestion.

6. Lunchtime Arrangements

HT would like all pupils to eat in the lunch hall for hygiene and supervision reasons. A weekly rotation system is in place. Packed lunches will be placed on a trolley for easier access.

7. Parent Council Role

HT emphasized the importance of a strong partnership between the school and PC. Parents can raise concerns via PC members. Non-members may attend meetings as observers, per the PC constitution.

8. Mobile Phone Policy

The decision on mobile phone use lies with the HT. Mosshead currently enforces a no-phone policy during the school day, though phones may be kept in bags. Smartwatches are more problematic due to messaging capabilities. A parent workshop with the community police officer is being considered.

9. Flavoured Milk

Some parents expressed concern over the sugar content in flavoured milk served at lunch. The HT noted this is a council-level decision but will pass on the feedback to EDB.

10. iPad Use in P1

Parents requested more clarity on iPad use in Primary 1. HT explained they are used in a limited way to support phonics, number recognition, and interactive learning via smartboard games.

11. School Communications

Some parents reported missing emails. HT clarified that the system tracks when emails are opened. A more standardised communication method (e.g. weekly updates) was suggested.

12. Litter on School Grounds

Concerns were raised about litter. HT noted that not all litter originates during school hours. Bins cannot be left out due to fire risk and safety concerns. The Eco Committee will be consulted for solutions.

13. Clubs

Parents noted that most clubs are sports-focused. Suggestions included non-sport options such as debating or arts clubs. A volunteer form will be circulated to gather parent skills and interests.

14. P7 Residential

P7 parents expressed their appreciation for a successful and enjoyable residential week.

15. P1 Buddies

P1 parents thanked the Buddies for their support in helping new pupils settle in.

16. Future Meetings

There will be five PC meetings this academic year. Upcoming dates:

- **18th November 2025**
- **20th January 2026**
- **10th March 2026**
- **5th May 2026**

All meetings will be held at 6:30pm at Bearsden Academy.

17. School Events Timing

Parents noted that many events fall on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays, which can be difficult for working families. HT responded that this is likely coincidental and noted that events like Sports Day are typically held on Mondays.

18. Thanks

The meeting concluded with thanks to all attendees and volunteers for their continued support.
