



Balmuidy Primary School Parent Council Minutes Tue 3rd March 2026 6.30pm-8pm at Turnbull High School

Present (please edit / add / delete as appropriate): Stephanie Fowler (Chair), Sean Kelly (Vice Chair), Charlotte Grogan (Head Teacher), Carol Jarman (Depute Head Teacher), Kat Robertson (Depute Head Teacher), Reverend Susan Anderson, Councillor Lynda Williamson, Heather Glass (PTA Representative), Marieanne Macleod, Ria Koronidi, Edel Kenealy, Oliver Henrich (Secretary)

Apologies: Councillor Gordan Low, Wilma Heaney, Rania Henderson, Laura Dickson, Susan Mason

Agenda items:

- 1. Head Teachers Report**
- 2. Mobile Device Policy**
- 3. ASN Policy**
- 4. EV3 Consent Form**
- 5. School Grounds**
- 6. Parent Council Budget**
- 7. Parent Council Class Representatives**
- 8. AOB**

1. Head Teachers Report

The school is currently experiencing a small number of staff absences. Ms Hamilton is absent, and Ms Anderson is also unavailable; Mrs Anderson is continued to be covered by supply teacher Ms Murray, supported by Ms Gallagher, ensuring continuity of learning. Despite these temporary absences, the school remains fully staffed overall.

Construction of the new Balmuidy Primary School continues to progress well. Pupils are highly engaged with the process, and current updates from the Council confirm that the project remains on schedule and within the agreed budget.

Teaching and learning improvement remains a key priority. Staff are actively engaged in professional reflection focusing on structured feedback and self and peer assessment. The school continues to implement the research-informed CIRCLE framework, which supports inclusive practice by helping teachers identify and apply effective strategies to meet a wide range of pupil needs.

Quality assurance processes include the regular review of pupil jotters. This term we have been looking at reading and writing which supports consistency in learning, teaching and assessment across the school.

Disclosure Scotland has recently clarified that PVG checks (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) must now be conducted directly at the school level. A transition period is currently in place; however, from August 2027, PVG membership will be required for parents accompanying children on school trips. Additional support will be needed to encourage more parents to complete the necessary checks so that school excursions can continue to run effectively.

2. Mobile Device Policy

The school's mobile device policy aligns fully with current East Dunbartonshire Council guidance. Under the current policy, pupils may not use mobile devices during school. Teachers may, however, use personal devices where this directly supports teaching and learning.

Staff have verified that the policy is consistent with all relevant local authority expectations. Consultation indicated that both teachers and a large majority of parents support a full ban on mobile phone use in school, while pupils expressed mixed views.

Questions were raised about how this policy will be managed during the transition to secondary school, where most pupils currently carry mobile phones. The policy has been formally approved, no modifications are currently planned, but the policy is scheduled for review in January 2027. While secondary schools are also moving towards stricter mobile phone restrictions, decisions remain at the discretion of individual head teachers.

3. ASN Policy

The Additional Support Needs (ASN) Policy was updated in 2025 to improve its clarity, accessibility, and usability for parents and staff.

Some parents have requested clearer information about the pathways available for accessing support for children with neurodiversity or other learning needs. The school reiterated that the class teacher should always be the first point of contact for any concerns, and additional guidance will be incorporated into the policy to support families seeking further assistance.

4. EV3 Consent Form

A brief update was provided regarding the EV3 consent form.

The school put forward that currently paper EV3 forms were required per individual trip. Parents enquired if this could be minimised by filling in the forms once via the portal system. It was also pointed out paper forms sent home via school bags can be

lost and if it was possible to remind the parent body via Seesaw. It was agreed that the HT will encourage all parents to sign up to the Parent Portal in the newsletter and use this where appropriate , rather than sending home EV3 in paper format.

5. School Grounds

Concerns were raised about pupils returning home covered in mud. Additionally some parents think a suspected oil leak may be linked to construction machinery on site, there is currently no clear evidence that the issue is directly related to the ongoing building works, however, the matter will be discussed with the project management team to determine whether any adjustments are needed.

Families were encouraged to provide children with a second pair of shoes for changing during the school day if they wish and children will not be allowed on the grass when it is deemed too mucky.

6. Parent Council Budget

The Parent Council has an allocated budget of £350, which will be used primarily to support school needs, including the purchase of paper and other essential items.

7. Parent Council Class Reps

The Parent Council aims to improve representation across all classes. The group aims to have 14 class-based representatives.

To support visibility and engagement, photographs of class representatives will be displayed in the school's entrance area. Recruitment efforts will continue through communication channels including the gym hall noticeboard, staff room, and Seesaw.

While holding meetings at Balmuildy Primary would be beneficial, this is not currently feasible due to the school's 7pm closing time.

8. AOB

The Parent Council would like to express its gratitude to Marieanne Macleod for chairing the Council meetings over several years.

Date of next meeting: 28th April