

Minutes of the meeting Humbie Parent Council 5th May 2016 Held at Humbie Primary School

Present: Iain Lawrie (Chair), Sally Leighton (Head Teacher), Kirsten Pearson (Principal Teacher), Tracey McCullagh, Luke Dalrymple, Helen Rawlinson, Sally Heaphy (Clerk)

Apologies: Pippa Murphy, Jennifer Edward, Ludovic Broun-Lindsay

Iain welcomed everyone and thanked all for coming to the meeting.

PRIMARY 7 PUPILS GIVING THE VIEWS ON HUMBIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Primary 7 – Katy, Bella, Sam and Jack gave a presentation answering questions about Humbie Primary School. Please find attached a copy of their presentation. The presentation was well received and the answers enjoyed. With several ideas that the Parent Council wanted to take forward including visits to local places of interest. HR agreed to put a shout out on FB to gather ideas.

HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT/SCHOOL MATTERS.

Staffing

Staffing is now back to full strength now Mrs Ritchie has returned.

Pupil Numbers

Pupil numbers at the moment are 19 in the School, P1-5, P2-4, P3-1, P4-1, P5-3, P6-1, P7-4.

A total of 9 in the nursery Ante Pre School – 4, Pre-school – 5. There will be 4 leavers from P7.

Predicted numbers will be 19 or possibly 20 next year. P1, 5 confirmed possibly 6 and 4 new to nursery starting in Aug 16.

Curriculum Update

The two nurseries are going to have a combined sports day at Fletcher Hall. Marian Barclay who has been working with the Saltoun children is going to work with the nursery children at Humbie and is going to supervise sports day and demonstrate some of the work she has been doing including a Toddler daily mile.

Light Touch RWI has been introduced to Nursery with a sound a day and rhymes for the letter sounds and introduction of cursive handwriting to help get them ready for school.

Mrs Lowrie has been visiting other nurseries of a similar size. They visited Innerwick and were able to swap ideas and felt quite motivated from it. It was hoped we would reciprocate the visit.

P1 transition programme has been started with a meeting for talking to the P1-7 teacher included. SL wants to arrange a parent meeting for children coming into nursery to discuss the nursery curriculum and as well as meeting other parents.

Joining up with Saltoun again for the East Links park trip.

Increasing the resources indoors and outdoors with new guttering that can be moved, this has come from PTA funds.

Primary 1-2 are making really good progress with RWI and some P2s and 3s are off the programme.

Author corners with David Walliams across the whole class but the picture books weren't as good as the novels for the older children. Saltoun also have David Walliams so they could work together.

Eco School a joint Humbie and Saltoun project including the John Muir Award which Mrs Ritchie is now going to take on with another visit to the Tip.

P7 transition activities have begun with different destinations. One P7 child is going to join with Pencaitland for a few sessions along with a child from Saltoun.

Continuing developing the children as writers with the authors earlier in the year and now focussing on poetry.

A new times table reward system is being set up with a view to giving out rewards by the end of the term.

Luke Dalrymple has been teaching some drama which the children developed into a very successful performance at the Queens Birthday café

SL is hoping to organise another café at the end of the year for the P7s attending as VIPs and double it up as the end of year assembly.

Last Pitch Pulse Magic concert takes place on Friday on Strings.

P7s trip to Loch Inch was very much enjoyed and SL looking to send a larger group but try and avoid siblings. Longniddry is happy to let us join them again. It was discussed whether the P5s should join or does that lead to too much repetition or perhaps another trip for the younger ones, but it was felt that there was too much pressure on the staffing to run two trips.

Budgets

Budgets have been cut slightly. There will be no French Assistants next year. But they are providing a French learning platform and all the assistants are putting it together. There will not be the money next year for Linda Scott. Staff have been having training to keep it moving forward. It was suggested that perhaps the PTA could help fund areas like this where budgets are cut. SL said they had looked into getting Linda for alternate morning with Saltoun and buying in from Ross High but Saltoun don't have the budget. The cost would wipe out PTA funds and PTA funds have been committed to other areas including transport and the art project.

The Local Authority said they didn't have enough money for French Assistants but they have put the money they do have into the learning platform through Francaise L'Ecosse. If you wanted to do a project they would put together French resources on that platform with sound buttons.

SL said she would explore costs of possibly Francaise L'Ecosse delivering a French club although she wasn't sure if they provided that service. But this could be an area that PTA might be able to help. SL said they could use PTA funds to help with everyday resources as funding was going to be very tight.

Mural

The map of Humbie is looking tired. Morag is happy to do something with the children but will need to purchase some paints. SL asked if it could be discussed at the next PTA meeting.

Art Project

The full £1500 was secured for the art project.

P7 Leavers Trip/End of Term

P7s have requested to go out for a 'posh' meal followed by a ghost tour around Edinburgh.

Following on from last year's PTA picnic SL suggested perhaps a BBQ / Pizza party at the Hub. It was agreed that was a good idea but date was discussed either last Thursday or Friday. To be discuss further with PTA.

School Improvement Framework

SL handed out a handy parent version of the School Improvement Framework.

School Planters

LD had emailed Jim Hunter regarding the planters, if Jim can't help LD has another person who might be able to help.

It was suggested perhaps approaching the local supermarkets to help with fundraising. IL also suggested approaching B&Q for free plants. LD will investigate later.

Orchard Project

LD said there is a chap in the council called Alan ?? and it his remit to cover the orchard for maintenance so he knows what is happening. LD will contact.

HUMBIE'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAMED PERSON ACT

SL showed some of Lara Neri's presentation which has been shown round parent councils in East Lothian. Please see attached.

Explaining that the Named Person comes in in August 16. The role will be taken up either by a head teacher or promoted teacher. SL has had training and KP is going to have training.

SL explained that a lot of the work required for the named person is already in place and what already happens in school. It isn't Big Brother watching parents, although there has been a lot of bad press about this.

Every child will have a named person and in the primary school it will be the Head Teacher. Other staff can be delegated to if SL sees appropriate, as it is about finding the best person who has the best relationship with the child to work around the concern.

Pastrol note taking system is being set up on SEEMIS as a formal process so it can be shared with other agencies. Only certain people will have access to the notes. This will be shared with parents and not behind their backs it is a supporting role. The nursery children will be supported by their Health Visitor.

SL explained it's about the wellbeing of the child and sharing of information and better systems in place so nothing gets missed. This is not a child protection role. If there was a child protection concern that would go down the child protection route.

Within EL the children will learn their Named Person as part of their Wellbeing work and told if they have a concern who to talk to. Parents can also go to the NP for support and help.

During the holidays the Local Authority will take up the role if someone has a concern. This will give a little bit more security. School Leavers up to the age of 18 will have a Named Person provided by the Local Authority and this person could help them with job applications, advice with interviews etc.

SL handed out the Top 10 Named Person Facts (attached).

A parent had quite a few queries around some documentation she had received from a venue outside East Lothian – it was suggested she sought further advice from that Authority about that particular query. The parent had several questions about the process and this generated discussion around the role of the Named Person . This served to reassure the parent about East Lothian procedures.

AOB

A request by the PTA for parent volunteers to help with the school library.

DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday 8th September 2016 – 6.00-8.00 pm. This will be the AGM. IL is happy to stand again for chair unless anyone else would like to take on the role.

NB: There is a crèche available with Mrs Anderson, please ensure you inform her in good time of the meeting if you require her.

Top 10 Named Person Facts

1. A Named Person does not replace or change the role of a parent or carer, or undermine families

The rights and responsibilities of parents to raise their children and provide for their wellbeing needs stay the same. The Named Person's role is to respond to requests for help from a child, young person or parent, and those who work with them where they have concerns for a child's wellbeing. They will not interfere in things like how a child's room is decorated, the TV programmes they watch, or in their religious or political beliefs.

2. The Named Person approach is not new

A form of the Named Person service is already operating across much of Scotland and builds on the supportive role teachers and health visitors have long offered to children and parents. The new legislation simply makes good practice the standard across Scotland so that support is available to all if they need it.

3. Children and parents have no obligation to use the service or take up the advice or help offered

Access to a Named Person is an entitlement. This ensures a child, young person, parent, family member or someone who works with them, knows who they can approach for help or advice if they need it. A Named Person has a duty to respond to a worry about a child's or young person's wellbeing, but there is no requirement for families to take up the offer of help. The Act does not however change the existing responsibility of the police or social work to act in cases where a child may be at risk of significant harm.

4. A Named Person will not directly access personal information

The Named Person will work with families, as health visitors and teachers already do, to understand individual circumstances. They will only receive information from other services or professionals if it's relevant to the wellbeing of the child or young person, and it will help the Named Person carry out their role in supporting the child and their family. In most cases, the child or young person and parent will know what is being shared, with whom and for what purpose, and their views will be taken into account. Only in exceptional cases, such as where there is a concern for a child's safety, will this not happen.

5. The creation of the Named Person service does not change privacy laws or infringe on human rights

Existing laws already permit information sharing when it is necessary to prevent or address a risk to wellbeing. The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 sets out that sharing information with, and by, a child's Named Person should take place in line with current legislation as confirmed by the Scottish Court's ruling in September 2015. Lord Justice Clerk Lord Carloway, stated: "*It has no effect whatsoever on the legal, moral or social relationships within the family.*"

6. The Named Person will not be a social worker

They will typically be a health visitor for pre-school children and a head teacher, deputy head teacher or guidance teacher for school age children.

7. The Named Person service does not waste resources or jeopardise child safety

In fact, the GIRFEC approach has been found to reduce the amount of time teachers, health professionals, social workers, parents, and children and young people spend in meetings, and reduce caseloads for Social Work because support was given before problems turned into crises. Delivered by health and education services, the Named Person service will support specialist services, such as social work, as they continue to respond to the needs of vulnerable children and families. It does not change or overrule current child protection procedures and the police and or social work should continue to be contacted immediately if a child is believed to be at risk of significant harm.

8. The Named Person role will not overburden teachers or health staff

Health visitors, promoted teachers, and others who will be a Named Person already have responsibilities for providing advice and support to children, young people, and families. The Scottish Government, local authorities, and health boards will provide guidance, training, and resources to assist them to carry out this role. It is the organisations providing the Named Person service, not individual Named Persons, who have legal responsibilities for the duties in the Act.

9. The Named Person is not a State Guardian

Parents and carers are, with very few exceptions, the best people to raise their children. The Named Person will have no duty to monitor family life. GIRFEC provides a common approach to thinking about wellbeing but does not introduce or impose a uniform set of wellbeing standards. The service recognises that each child and family situation is unique.

10. The Act does not give the Named Person a monitoring role

The Named Person will respond to information about wellbeing needs raised by the child, young person, parents or those who work with them. The Named Person will help put children, young people and families in control of getting help and support to overcome difficulties at the right time.

A wide range of children's charities and professionals working daily to support families across the country support the Named Person service.