



PINKIE PARENTS

The Parent Council of Pinkie St Peters Primary School and Levenhall Nursery

ANNUAL REPORT

2014 - 2015

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the eighth annual report of Pinkie Parents, the Parent Council for Pinkie St Peter's Primary School and Levenhall Nursery.

Pinkie Parents has now been active for 8 years since its formation under the Parental Involvement Act. We strive to support the aims of the school through our representation of parents and carers, whilst encouraging participation in the school community.

Pinkie Parents represents you, and to that aim, we need your comments feedback, ideas, suggestions and support. The meetings of Pinkie Parents are the main forum for such discussion.

This annual report will hopefully give you an insight into what we have been doing over the last year. As we move forward we would like to hear you views and suggestions and look forward to hearing from you.

Pinkie Parents

ABOUT PINKIE PARENTS

Pinkie Parents represents you, the parents and carers of Pinkie St Peter's Primary School and Levenhall Nursery children, collectively known as the Parent Forum.

We were established in September 2007 following a change in the law which abolished School Boards and required all schools in Scotland to set up a Parent/Carer Council in its place.

We are chaired by a parent member of Pinkie Parents, and we aim to have parent members representing every year in the school.

We work in partnership with the school Management Team with regular attendance at our meetings from the Head Teacher, Sarah Ogden and the Deputy Head Teacher, Hazel Rae.

We also have support and representation from local councillors Andy Forrest and Stuart Currie who have attended our meetings and listened to our concerns and raised issues on our behalf.

OUR OBJECTIVES

One of our main aims is to identify and represent the views of parents and carers on the education provided by the school and other matters affecting the welfare of all pupils.

Other aims and objectives as stated in our constitution are as follows:

- To work in partnership with the school

- To promote partnership between the school, pupils and all parents/carers of the wider community
- Develop and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of our pupils.
- To promote and encourage the participation of parents in these activities
- To participate in the appointment procedures for Head Teacher and Depute Head Teacher appointments

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The last year has been a significant year for Pinkie St Peters Primary School with the commencement of our new extension. The main part of the new build has been undertaken over the last year and due for final completion in November 2015.

It was also a big year for Levenhall Nursery as they moved location to our school in advance of the new nursery build. To ensure a one school community ethos, the nursery parents are now part of our Parent Council Forum.

Communication has been a key focus for Pinkie Parents, and we have continued to provide as much information as we can through our use of social media and links to the school website. Over the last year we have seen a more joined up approach with the school to ensure that as much relevant information is communicated by the most appropriate method.

We have representation on the Musselburgh Area Partnership, a relatively new body, which aims to provide influence to key issues which affect the Musselburgh and surrounding community. The most recent relevant issue affecting our pupils has been the "Attendance Matters" campaign as the partnership views attainment and achievement as a priority in the community.

We also continue to have representation on the East Lothian Association of Parent Councils. This allows for the sharing of ideas from across East Lothian and updates from the Head of Education.

We participated in the recruitment process for a new Deputy Head Teacher which concluded successfully with the appointment of the secondment of Helen Gordon who has responsibility for Levenhall Nursery.

Discussing issues of importance to the school including the Curriculum for Excellence, Budgets and key matters affecting our school and pupils continue to be the main focus of our meetings and our focus throughout the year.

A significant part of our year has been in relation to fundraising and events to support our pupils.

FUNDRAISING GROUP

Our Fundraising Group is now an integral part of Pinkie Parents and fully supports our efforts throughout the year.

The commitment of this group and its volunteers has been invaluable in supporting our achievements over the last year.

Whilst operating as a sub-group of Pinkie Parents, accountability and decision making remains with the Parent Council. Over the last year the Fundraising Group has continued to build on the success of previous years.

Events organised this year included:

- A Fancy Dress Disco for both P1-3 and P4-7.
- The annual design of pupil Christmas Cards.
- The Pinkie Parents Edinburgh Marathon Stall.
- Pinkie School Fair, which included our biggest ever prize raffle.

The latter two events have contributed significantly to our fundraising efforts and have provided the majority of funds to enable us to support our pupils through additional funding for a variety of things out with the school budget.

The stall organised and manned by a group of parent volunteers on the day to sell goods to Edinburgh Marathon runners has been a great success, not only from a fundraising view but it has been a great way to promote Pinkie Parents and see the benefits of parents working together. This opportunity will hopefully continue as long as the Edinburgh Marathon continues to use our fantastic grounds.

In June of this year we published through our Facebook Page and the school website what our fundraising efforts were actually spent on in support of our pupils, as we wish to make sure that you know what the fantastic fundraising support to our events is being used for.

Over the last year we have provided funding for a number of key areas to support our pupils in the school.

We have continued to support funding towards the cost of Christmas parties for all pupils in the school. The annual week at Benmore Camp for P7's has continued to receive financial support in order to subsidise this fantastic opportunity for our pupils.

We have retained significant funds, which were raised specifically to assist with making the new playground an active, fun, enjoyable environment for our pupils to enjoy their breaks and support outdoor learning. This will be progressed once the new extension is complete.

However in the meantime we have funded outdoor equipment kits to enable a range of activities during break time to assist help our pupils enjoy the outdoor environment.

A significant addition this year was the funding of the new school electronic library system and associated training, which allows our pupils to self-manage the library. This again contributes to and enhances the pupil learning experience.

For the first time this year, Pinkie Parents has funded a P7 Leavers Year Book for every pupil. This has been a fantastic opportunity for P7 pupils to become involved in designing and producing their own memories of their time at Pinkie St Peters and also contributes to their learning as it has been adopted as a P7 project for the pupils. We aim to support this for all future P7 pupils.

HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED

Becoming involved in Pinkie Parents doesn't mean that you have to take on a specific role, it's all about supporting our school and pupils at whatever level you are happy with.

- Volunteer to become a member of Pinkie Parents;
- Volunteer to become a member of the Fundraising Group;
- Attend one of our meetings (they are open to all, not just members);
- Get in touch with your class rep, and give us your suggestions or views about the school and how parents can get involved;
- Support us at events;
- Fill in any questionnaires or surveys that we issue to obtain your views.

Pinkie Parents aims to represent the views of parents and being involved is one of the best ways for parents to find out what is happening in our school community and supporting our pupils.

It also provides an opportunity for parents to meet each other and the school management team.

All parents and carers are welcome to come along to our meetings.

More information is available on the school website and any comments or questions may be sent to the Pinkie Parents email address.

School Website: <http://edubuzz.org/blogs/pinkie>

Parent Council Email: parentcouncil@pinkie-st-peters.elcschool.org.uk

Parent Council Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pinkieparentcouncil>

MEMBERSHIP OF PINKIE PARENTS

Our constitution allows for office bearers to stay on for two years, with representatives being reviewed annually at our AGM. It also enables office bearers to be appointed after being on Pinkie Parent council for a year. This allows a full insight into specific roles so those who wish to volunteer are fully aware of any specific commitment. Full details of reps for each class can be found on the school noticeboard and/or school website.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM takes place annually in September/October and everyone is welcome to attend. We use the AGM to review our achievements and discuss our priorities for the years ahead.

The AGM took place on 7 September 2014 at 7.00pm at the School.

Our newly elected office bearers for the 2015-2016 school session are:

Chair

Vice Chair

Treasurer

WHERE NOW....

With our new extension due for completion soon followed by the building of the new nursery, the next year ahead is extremely important for our school community. This will eventually realise a gradual but significant increase in our pupil roll, which will bring about a number of key challenges in our efforts to support our school. These challenges will rely on the continued support of the parents and carers in our school community.

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