

PARENT COUNCIL – WHAT IS IT?

What is the purpose Parent Council?

When parents are involved in their child's learning and in the life of the school the children do better. This is borne out by a growing body of research which demonstrates parental involvement is a key lever for school improvement.

Parent Councils offer a way of enabling parents to have a voice within the school. The group enables parents to meet, share ideas and feedback their views to the school. This helps to develop a partnership between families and the school and allows parents an opportunity to contribute to decision making on issues which affect them and the improvement of the school and their child's learning.

The Parent Council organises school and community-wide events to support the relationship between the school and the community but also to raise additional funds which can support the school. The Parent Council is also responsible for deciding where these funds should be spent.

Who is on the Parent Council?

The Parent Council is made up of the:

- Chairperson;
- Vice Chairperson;
- Secretary;
- Treasurer; and
- Representative from each class.

Additionally, the Head teacher and a few teacher representatives also attend each meeting.

Anyone with a child in the school is welcome to attend any meeting - you don't need to come regularly and you don't need to take on any extra work, mostly we just want your views on how you think things are in the school, whether you have any suggested improvements and any ideas of how to implement any improvements. Occasionally councillors or other interested parties also attend meetings if they have something of interest to discuss.

What goes on at meetings?

Meetings are very informal and usually last about an hour or so. At meetings, we discuss a range of topics raised by members of the parent council and by the school. The head teacher provides an update as does the treasurer and future events are planned.

Fundraising

This academic year the Parent Council has supported events such as the 'Cocktails and Capers' afternoon tea, the Christmas fair and the Castle Canter. Funds raised in recent years have been used to update IT equipment, enabling staff and pupils to have iPads in the classroom; expand the library and provide new reading books to support the literacy programme adopted by the school. We have also bought maths games to help the whole school in their drive to raise attainment in maths and role play panels to help the early years children to learn through play. The subscription for Discovery education, an on-line teaching tool which can also be accessed from home, is also funded, not to mention the panto and the buses used for school excursions.

Future events include another afternoon tea and Christmas fair to focus our efforts on improving the playground.

How can I help?

Get involved! Come along to a meeting, see what it's about. Support our events. Everyone is welcome and everyone has something to offer.

For information on meetings, agendas, and previous minutes send an email to newburghmathersparentcouncil@gmail.com and ask to be added to the contact list.

We look forward to seeing you next time!