



February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

We have recently updated the Forrester High Parent Council Constitution. A copy is attached below for your information and review. However, we also thought it would be helpful to summarise the main roles and responsibilities of the group, and also provide details of who we are and how you can get in touch with us.

WHAT IS A PARENT COUNCIL?

Let's start with the Parent Forum!

The 2006 Parental Involvement Act states that every school in Scotland has a Parent Forum which consists of *all* the parents/carers who have a child at the school. They are automatically members, whether they like it or not!

The Parent Forum can expect to – receive information about the school – decide on the format of the Parent Council and how it operates – identify issues for the Parent Council – be consulted by the Parent Council – and express views through the Parent Council.

Ok, so let's get back to the Parent Council...

The Parent Council is the committee appointed by the Parent Forum (usually at the annual AGM) to run matters on its behalf. A Parent Council is not run by the school or the local authority but by the parents in the school. The local authority supports a Parent Council both financially and with advice/support where required.

What do Parent Councils do?

The main aim of the Parent Council is to help the school operate as a successful school and to try to represent all parents/carers.

- There is an important role in improving links between all parents and the school
- Trying to make sure that parents get the information they need and that the school staff gets feedback on parents' views.
- Discussing any issue of interest to parents, including school policies on such things as bullying, sexual health and relationships education, homework and school uniform.
- Parental involvement in their children's learning is recognised as very important: the Parent Council has a role to play in helping this happen.
- The Parent Council should be involved in the recruitment of new Headteachers and/or senior staff.
- The Parent Council has an important role during and after a school inspection.

What are the main responsibilities of the Parent Council to the Parent Forum?

- To get news and information about the Parent Council and its activities to parents
- To invite parents to be involved in Parent Council activities, such as subcommittees or focus groups
- To ask for opinions from parents on issues about the school community
- To make sure all views are listened to and represented in an equal and fair way

How can I get to know specifically what Forrester Parent Council is doing?

The Parent Council have a section on the school website. We recognise this could be improved, and we are working to do this in the near future. The minutes from our meetings are uploaded here.

<https://forresterparentcouncil.wordpress.com/>

Even if you are not a member of the Parent Council, there is no reason why you can't attend any of the meetings. Parent Council meetings are public meetings and open to all members of the Parent Forum. If you have an issue that you want to bring to the Parent Council, then it would be helpful to let the Chair know about this in advance so that it can be added to the agenda. Please note, the Parent Council cannot however take up individual parents' issues, but you can ask the PC chair for advice.

Who are the Parent Council and when are the meetings?

The Officials are as follows;

Chair : Lorraine Kneebone (Tel 07786 553352)

Deputy Chair: Jackie Barn

Secretary: Carol Swan

Treasurer: Emma Spence

The names of all other members are on the school website.

The next meetings are on 3rd March and 5th May, and the AGM is on the 9th June. All meetings are held in the school starting at 7pm.

How do I contact the Parent Council?

Our email address is forresterpc@gmail.com or you can contact Lorraine Kneebone on 07786 55 33 52.

We hope you have found this information helpful! Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any feedback in relation to our updated Constitution, or indeed if there are any other matters at all you would like us to raise on your behalf with the school.

Finally, we really are a friendly and informal group of people, and you would be very welcome if you decide to come along to any of our meetings.

Lorraine Kneebone

Chair, Forrester High Parent Council



Forrester PC
Constitution Jan 2020.

For more information on Parent Councils or for information and advice for parents around your children's learning and school life generally, then have a browse on: <https://connect.scot/>