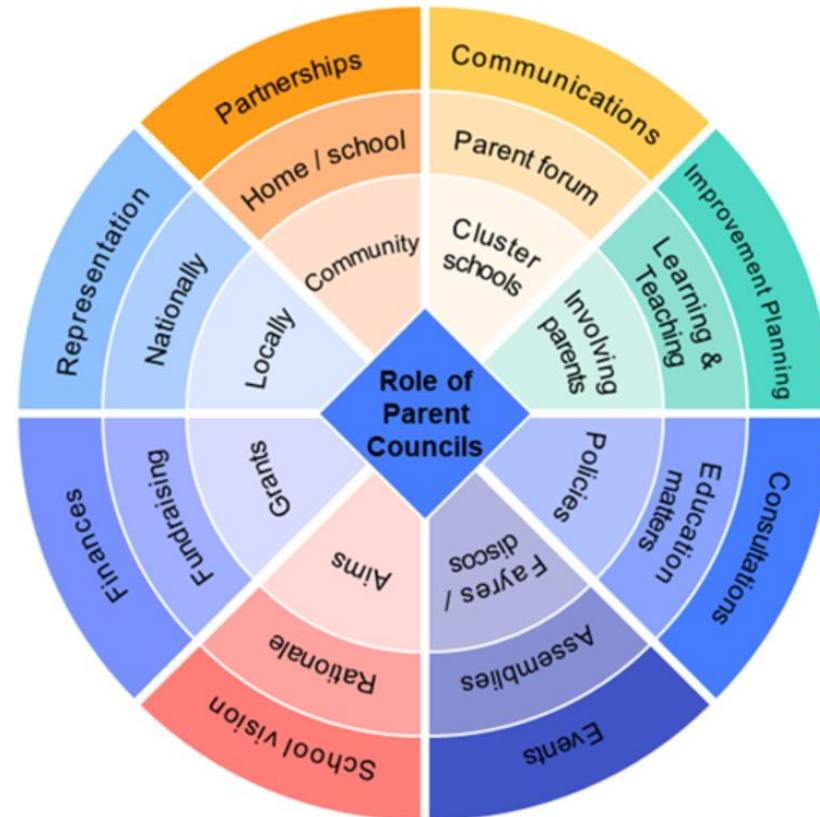


Parent Council Introduction

Tuesday 1st November 2022



Why do we need a Parent Council?

There are many aspects of school life that do not run well without a Parent Council.

Parent Council can run events (eg discos and fayres) that the school cannot do alone.

Parent Council can apply for grants and funding that school can't; they can apply to the Council direct for funding, the Common Good Fund (which has previously funded the buses to the pantomime in Pitlochry) and can arrange opportunities such as the coop fund that the school cannot apply for.

In the past, they have also campaigned for new fences and upgraded toilets as well as supporting good communication between home and school.



What is the Parent Council?

The Parent Council is a group of parents selected by all parents in the school to represent their views.

Parent Councils have an important role to play in school improvement by ensuring that the parental perspective is represented and taken into account.



What is the role of the Parent Council?

The Parent Council helps to create an environment where all parents know that their views matter and where they feel confident and comfortable putting them forward.

They work on behalf of all parents to discuss educational matters that are of importance to all. They do not get involved in individual matters relating to children or staff in the school.



Parent Forum

Membership of a parent forum consists of parents who have a child at a local authority school. Parents are automatically members of the parent forum for their child's school and it is important they are informed and know about this.



As a member of the parent forum, each parent can expect to:

- receive information about the school and its activities;
- participate in deciding how the Parent Council (or parent representative body) is organised and how it operates;
- identify issues they want the Parent Council to work on with the setting or school;
- be asked their opinion by the Parent Council on issues relating to the setting or school and the education it provides;
- work in partnership with staff;
- enjoy taking part in the wider life of the setting or school in whatever way they can.

One of the ways parents in the parent forum will be able to express their views is through the Parent Council.



Parent Council

Parent Councils are constituted bodies who are independent from the school and the local authority.



As an independent body, Parent Councils are designed to be flexible but their main functions are to:

- work in partnership with the school to decide on the key priorities to take forward;
- ensure that your school and learning is the best it can be;
- provide a voice for parents in schools on issues that are important to them;
- improve the school's understanding of how to engage parents in their children's learning and in the wider life of the school;
- communicate regularly with the parent forum to hear their views and keep them informed;
- self-evaluate to inform improvement planning. Discuss the setting or school's strengths and areas for development from a parental perspective;



- gather and represent the views of parents to the Headteacher, local authority and HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIe);
- fundraise in collaboration with the setting or school for the benefit of all pupils and families;
- apply for grants and seek out funding sources;
- organise events;
- contribute to school inspections;
- help with or undertake school consultations.



What it looks like when things go well ...

- Good communication between home and school
- The Parent Council communicates with the parent forum
- Parents know who to contact on the Parent Council if they want to share views or have a query
- Parents and staff tackle areas of difficulty and concern together
- There are open channels of communication so that parents feel comfortable talking to staff
- The Parent Council works with the school to arrange fundraising events and activities for the children.



Office Bearers

- Chairperson – TBC (must be a parent of a child at the school)
- Vice Chairperson – TBC (helps the chair and stands in if they are absent)
- Secretary – TBC (takes minutes and handles communication)
- Treasurer – Mr Flynn (to keep a good record of all money related matters)

There is no expectation to be an office bearer – coming along to meetings is more than enough support!



More info ...

More information is available at:

[What is the Parent Council? | Parent Councils | Getting involved | Parent Zone \(education.gov.scot\)](#)

