



**The Gordon Schools Parent Council  
Minutes of meeting held on 12 September 2023**

**Attending:** Phil Gaiter, Alan Johnston, Paula Sangster, Skye Sangster, Gwyneth Petrie, Helen Kings, Joyce Reed, Madie Whittaker,

**Apologies:** Rachael Ashley, Donald Boyd, Magdalena Lawkowska, Colin Currie

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Review constitution
3. Homework policy: support for pupils and parents

**Rector's Update**

TGS Improvement Planning for 2023-24-25-26

- Priority 1:** Developing & creating opportunities for positive wellbeing outcomes to be met across our whole-School community  
Ensuring consistent positive, supportive & inclusive relationships in all areas of learning  
Maximise successes and achievements, particularly for those facing most disadvantage
- Priority 2:** Ensure consistent high-quality, inclusive learning, teaching & assessment  
Engage and challenges all young people, facilitate their voice  
Provides more reliable formative and summative data to support improvements, achievement & attainment
- Priority 3:** Review and restructure our curriculum to build successful outcomes for all  
Finalise our skills framework to embed and connect it with learning for life & work in just & sustainable communities, both locally and globally

## Uniform Summary

**Questions for families. Please let us know by completing the link below:**

- Will you support TGS by ensuring you child/children come to school wearing dress code?

Yes / No

115 responses: 110 yes and 5 no

- Do you want to be informed if your child / children is not wearing uniform from our Dress Code?

Yes / No

115 responses: 76 yes and 39 no

- Would you like to suggest any changes to our current dress code?

Yes/No

115 responses: 44 yes and 71 no

- Hoodies – big split over whether they are appropriate or not
- Consequences over non-compliance
- Smart shorts
- Overall costs and especially the black polo
- Split over Blazer yes and no

If 'Yes' please give details below.

- Are you happy with the different places you can get uniform items from?

Yes / No

If 'No', please give more detail below:

115 responses: 101 yes and 14 no

- Quality of uniforms supplied, especially MyClothing
- Costs
- Difficulties around sizing
- Supply difficulties from providers

### **Review constitution document**

This was reviewed and minor changes made.

### **Homework policy: support for pupils and parents**

Homework can be on paper or Glow and can cause confusion. Parents want to help and support and are maybe not able to do. It was felt there needs to be greater clarity. Show My Homework has been used in other schools but due to Aberdeenshire Council policies and data protection this has not been used in The Gordon Schools. There were issues also with this system due to it not being able to adapt to changes i.e. timetable/teachers. Teams was felt the best system to use. There are 3 – 4 difference sources of homework and this could be discussed with staff with a suggestion of having one place for everything. It was also noted that some pupils have homework weekly, and some are not given homework. There is educational evidence that pupils do not benefit from being overwhelmed with homework. If this does happen pupils/parents can speak to guidance so this can be explained to teachers. Parents need to be aware they can do this.

Maths and English are keen to have an evening session for parents on how to help with literacy/numeracy and to show what resources are available. It is important to support parents and that they do not do homework.

School to think about sending out a survey asking for responses as to how do young people access learning via their phone/device and how do they access learning out with school.

#### **Action**

- This would fit with Julie Raeside's remit with Skye to be involved. Julie to be invited to a future meeting

### **School Uniform**

Sizing and quality can be different in different stores. A suggestion of school or Gordon Rural Action displaying the different sizes. The wearing of school uniform has to be led by pupils and to enforce this may create problems. It is a bonus if pupils attend school wearing school uniform.

#### **Action**

- Joyce to approach Gordon Rural Action

### **Prizegiving**

Should we review again? It was agreed that the team school captain would get a pen, but it was felt on prize giving evening they were basic and not in a box. The decision was made previously by a majority, but we can change this for the next prize giving.

### **Career change talk to S5 pupils**

PiP were asked if they would come and present to S5 pupils regarding career changes and no wrong path. Joyce would be happy to do this and will also approach Rachel.

### **Next meeting:**

Tuesday 14 November