

# Additional Questions Parent Council

## Rubber chips hazard

### Question

" I have had a couple of parents ask about the use of 'strikes.' kids have been telling their parents that there has been talk of a '3 strike' and then you have to see the head teacher which doesn't seem to fit with the behaviour policies. Just wondering if we could ask for clarification on this please."

### School Response

There is no such policy in place at Williamston Primary School. Teachers have been reminded of the school's positive relationship policy and processes.

### Question

Please can the playground be swept. The rubber stuff is a hazard.

### School Response

The children asked for these as part of the playground review for a quiet area in the courtyard, but we are aware that the chips being carted across the playground are not ideal. The FMA does clear them approximately every fortnight depending on FMA shifts. Plus, we have a brush and shovel for the children to maintain this in between. It is currently very clear of chips today (but that is before lunch time!) A pupil leadership group is continuing to consult on the playground.

## ELC Communications

### Question

"One for the ELC. At the sharing evening the ELC said they would be working on their communications and asked for volunteers to be part of a focus group.

Has the focus group happened?

The app updates don't seem to be happening very frequently and there has been no changes to the end of day update that I have noticed at pick up.

My suggestion would be that an update is put on the app for what the children will be focusing on in the upcoming week rather than afterwards. "

### School Response

Mrs Thomson has this in hand with an email to the parents about the working group going out this week. (This was 22<sup>nd</sup> January)

## Fire safety and chairs

### Question

“A parent attended the Carol Concert and pointed out that none of the chairs were linked? Apparently, if there are more than 6 in a row, they must be linked?”

### School Response

Having heard back from the health and safety team and business support, there is no clear legislation around this, with guidance being around managing events as safely as we can. There is some guidance specific to areas where events are held not on a ground floor or with only one exit, and that also says where there are linking chairs available. However, we have 3 fire exits and events are held on the ground floor. We do not have chairs that link in school. We have an aisle for our events to facilitate safe exits when required. We also plan the rows ahead taking cognisance of any wheelchair users/disabled access required as well as little ones on knees. Pushchairs and buggies are generally held in the hub area with these being limited in the large hall itself. We also have set maximum numbers for events in place for the halls. We have a robust risk assessment that take account of all these mitigating factors.

Should the parent with this query have different guidance, it would be most helpful to have this sent on so that we can discuss this further with Health and Safety.

## After School Club Provision

### Question

*Lack of after school Clubs for p1, simply play expensive and is there more the school could provide at lower costs for p1. Currently only football and one boys only - both I think at capacity. Comparisons being made to other WLC schools that have better provision like homework clubs etc*

*it's more there's just nothing apart from football available for p1 and other schools have other things.*

*Do parents need to suggest/push the school for more or is there a blocker/reason parents don't know about that we can explain.*

*I think some of the clubs are run by staff. But I assume they are either using their own time or some sort of assigned time to do so. I imagine it's their choice. So, unless staff want to run for free or external providers want to do it for free, I don't think there will be any more.*

*Is it maybe something that the parents can take to WLC because it doesn't really explain the inconsistency between schools. On a side note, when the P1 girls football which is ran by the college (I think) was released the communication on how you signed up for clubs wasn't great, especially when P1 parents couldn't sign them up last year because they were deemed too young, so for it to be a new system to us, and I think it was the times of the link being released that were inaccurate, I think only 1 or 2 P1 girls got in.*

## School Response

*After school clubs in general -*

- *Clubs are not determined by WLC and schools negotiate these with providers depending on logistics.*
- *Providers mainly come from 2 main routes - Active Schools budgeted by us as a school as we are covering the costs of 4 clubs and teacher volunteers. Sometimes we are able to utilise partnerships with West Lothian College where these are available. This is not the same every year.*
- *Over a school session, we plan for term 1 as a settling period and setting up of clubs as providers can change year on year. Clubs run during terms 2 and 3, with P1 starting term 3. This is because the little ones can take time to settle. We do not run clubs term 4 due to poor uptake in the lighter nights, the number of bank holidays and the number of lets for one of the halls required in term 4.*
- *No 2 schools will be the same for after school club provision. It can depend on providers in the area, availability, whether this comes via active schools/a partnership following taster sessions/lets. Some schools have none.*
- *We work with our Active Schools coordinator to provide free after school clubs for specific stages. Clubs offered can depend on what providers they have and for which stages/gender the provider is targeted towards. This can change year on year. For example, a dance club leader was doing this to get into university and has now moved on; Disney playmakers was for girls only therefore we provided a boys only one at the same stage.*
- *Clubs are very popular and we can only provide the spaces the provider can accommodate.*
- *Sometimes teachers offer to run a club. This is their own choice as there can never be time allocated within our working time agreement for the running of clubs (a union clause). These clubs need to fit around what is in our working time agreement as we often have collegiate working sessions after school from 3.30pm onwards.*
- *Some schools may have more clubs as they are buying them in with Pupil Equity Funding where they have significantly more funds than Williamston. This would look like more clubs on offer but be paid for centrally by the school. We are currently paying for 4 clubs to be offered to parents and carers for free. There is no capacity for any more.*
- *Some schools have more space to utilise such as community wings or other hall spaces. We have 2 halls to use and have to factor in lets and school events already on the calendar.*
- *Some clubs have agreed leases/lets with WLC to provide their own service.*
- *We currently provide 11 clubs across the school. Some other schools only provide clubs from P4-7. We try to accommodate for all year groups.*

- *We ask our children's views for what clubs they would like to have on offer. Some work, some don't and we need to be responsive to pupil voice*
- *Communication about booking clubs is sent out in advance with all bookings going live from 7pm. This is based on feedback from Parents and PC.*

*P1 specific clubs -*

- *As above re when we plan for these. The current term for P1 clubs is term 3.*
- *The current Disney Playmaker club is part of a partnership we have with West Lothian College where they are training their students through this course overseen by a tutor on site. This may change from year to year. Disney playmakers is a girls only football club that has to run for 10 weeks due to the training for the leaders. Therefore, we provided a boys only one at the same stage. Therefore are 2 P1 clubs, albeit both football.*