

PARENT COUNCIL/PSA MEETING 25 November 2025

Staffing

We have had some staff absence in ELC with limited supply responses. When this happens we have to ensure ratios are covered with staff from within the school. This can impact on support across the school. Ms MacDonald has a career break commencing shortly. This post is backfilled already with a class teacher, meaning we can extend their contract to match the career break.

Budget

Our most recent Budget Statement has been issued. Our lead spend will be on essential resources. Budgets are increasingly tight for all schools. All spending is in line with improvement plan priorities and interventions. The future of Pupil Equity Funding is unclear beyond March 2026 and this would have a significant impact on supporting learners should this cease.

A plea from school – where reading books are issued, sometimes these come back to school damaged or not at all. This makes a significant dent into our resources. We would ask that ALL reading books are stored in book bags provided and brought to school daily. New books are in the process of being ordered but these are very expensive (approx. £5.50 - £8.40 per book)

School fund has had a boost through the recent sponsored walk. Along with the parkrun donation from PSA, this will be allocated to reading books and literacy resources across the school. Other annual spending includes - pantomime, Christmas parties and gifts from Santa for ELC and P1/2, some in house trips that cost money, additional residential payments over and above PEF allowances (School is funding far more than covered by Pupil Equity Funding). Money is already set aside for P7 leavers gifts and for the show they have chosen. The recent fundraising has temporarily increased school funds to allow this to continue this session. However, this is becoming unsustainable longer term.

Cost of the School Day

We continue to promote COSD plans and messages. We have a pupils leadership group working on COSD alongside cluster schools. 2 of these pupils attended a budget meeting at ICHS and supported me in an assembly for P5-7 before reviewing the current budget consultation.

School receives £15925 Pupil Equity Funding per year for targeted interventions for identified children.

Pupil Equity Fund PB - £478 each year. They wanted to fund school camps.

Camp 2023 – school paid 4 pupils @ £1420

Camp 2024 – school paid 2 @ £630

Camp 2025 – school paid 4 @ £1452

Camp 2026 – school paying for 3 @ £1104

We are supporting 3 pupils to attend school camp. This will not be sustainable should PEF cease.

For PC/PTA to consider/confirm – would PC/PSA be willing to consider funds held back for confidential access to an opportunity fund, where there can be additional financial support where needed. I know this has been raised before but has this been confirmed/agreed as a good use of funds?

Where families do not pay up camp as per the schedule sent out, school fund can operate at a loss.

We continue to do the following -

- Fund residentials for identified families
- Support clothing provision for new families and those requesting uniform and through Winted
- Fund extra curricular school clubs. All providers school organise are now free.
- Recommend and promote non branded school uniform
- Donation only events, or participation only events
- Provision of classroom resources for all learners
- Consider the purpose of trips and the cost of these linked to learning at every stage of planning (Evolve-4 weeks notice, plus PVG checked volunteers as per ratios) A barrier to trips is parent volunteers to meet ratios. We have been at the point of cancelling trips due to this. See more detail on additional questions.

School Improvement Plan (SIP) and School Standards Quality Report (SQR)

Our current SIP and SQR is on the website.

Current improvement plan highlights include –

- Whole staff emergency aid training renewal
- Review of our vision, values and aims alongside our positive relationship policy; equality and diversity statement; antibullying statement
- Audit of HWB curriculum and introduction of Tree of Knowledge to support this; ongoing mindfulness; ongoing building resilience; ongoing emotionworks. This links to building racial literacy and has also informed our IDL framework.
- Very well received parent info session on trauma informed practice and how we support regulation in school. Although this was not as well attended as we would have hoped, those who did attend found it very useful.
- Undertaken 3 technology in schools parent sessions to gather views and inform our new guidance and agreements.
- Building thinking classrooms – 2 leads developing this.
- New GIRFEC processes introduced across WLC, meaning less child planning meetings. Brief outline in last newsletter.
- We are now using a new profiling tool in P4-7 through My World of Work.
- Writing moderation with our cluster colleagues.
- ELC vision event offered

- Prospective parent evening for families considering applying for P1 Aug 2026. This was very well attended and our P7s were praised for their confidence and helpfulness through the tours.
- We were nominated for a Bikeability award with the presentation taking place recently. This is a national award which we were very proud and surprised to receive.

Playground

With the storms last year and damage to private fencing, this has caused an issue within our school grounds meaning an area of the playground has had to be cordoned off. The issue is ongoing and being dealt with by our Property Maintenance Inspector. When the field becomes more accessible, we will ensure that the children are kept away and safe from these areas.

We could do with a top up of playground toys/activities. Is this something PSA/PC can support us with?

Extra-Curricular Clubs

This term has offered a number of extracurricular activities from P2 up that have been very well attended. New clubs for next term will be publicised soon, including for P1.

Christmas

As a school, we offer all children from preschool to P7 the chance to attend our in house pantomime. This year is Jack and the Beanstalk. Children can bring an extra snack and a cushion to sit on.

Parties are per year group with dates identified on the app and sent out in the newsletter.

PVG Changes

Any parent involved in any activity in the school must by law be PVG checked. This has implications for PC and PSA for running of events. It also has implications for trips, helpers, seasonal activities, etc. I attended a PVG course by Disclosure Scotland 2 weeks ago that was very interesting. WLC seem ahead of other authorities but this still has **significant** implications for PC and PSA groups. This needs further discussion as a group to be legally compliant.

We have had a number of trips this session where we have really struggled to find parent helpers to be able to allow these to happen and meet required ratios. We will have to review trips outside of school next session due to these challenges, with more of a focus on 'in-house' trips instead. See additional question sheet.