

PC HT Report 11 May 2026

Staffing

With us still awaiting budget statement 1, we do not have the full picture of staffing. However, we do know we will continue to have 15 classes. Before allocating teachers, we need to review –

- Fixed term contracts (x3)
- Probationer allocation for 26/27
- Career breaks (x1)
- Secondments (x2)

In terms of support staff, we have been 2 staff short since Christmas. Both availability and funding have been factors in getting backfill of one person. We will monitor and review this in line with fit for work notes and budgets in August. Budgets are tight. One thing to make you aware of is that our school no longer has 1FTE for Support for Learning. This has been the case for the past 2 years. I have been topping this up to a full-time post through additionality. We will also review this.

Class Structure

We will continue to have 15 classes for next session.

This will be as follows –

P1 x 2

P2/1

P2

P3/2

P3 x 2

P4 x 2

P5 x 2

P6 x 2

P7 x 2

Numbers are very tight across the area, affecting our school and others in the local area and we must consider the recommended class structure. Some stages are full (P6) with many others only having catchment only spaces. This means that the restructuring and compositing of classes needs to be carefully planned for taking into account WLC advice for composite classes. We also take account of age, gender balance, teacher knowledge of learner dynamics, specific ASN needs, specific family information (some of which may be confidential). We are unable to plan classes based on friendships alone.

We anticipate meet the new teacher day being week beginning 15th June, with further enhanced visits that same week where staffing allows.

Budget

We are awaiting Budget Statement 1 which will outline our allocation of funding for 26/27. This will be shared with PC in due course.

School Improvement Planning and Standards and Quality Report

We have been working on both the above documents throughout the year with them being finalised in June. We always try to consult with all families. We set up boards at sports day and pulled information from the ethos surveys to assist with some of this. We had no responses. Ethos surveys from both pupils and parents always inform priorities, as well as attainment data, national Curriculum Improvement Cycle changes coming up, quality assurance processes and feedback.

Key priorities identified so far include –

- CIC development
- Leaders of learning approaches

Ethos surveys –

- Feedback and target setting, increasing confidence as a learner
- Wellbeing
- Consistent approaches to challenge and support (effective differentiation)

Sharing learning

As previously updated at PC and in the newsletter, we had been sharing photos of learning on X without identifying any individuals. We have been looking at ways to share this without using this platform that is manageable for staff and meaningful for families. West Lothian Council's position is that social media is not used for this without clear purpose and strategy. Many schools are in the same position and are reviewing what they use. Staff had been trialling the use of Sway, as outlined at the last PC meeting. However, this was not straightforward and was proving challenging with many steps involved to upload photos from devices. For school camp, staff shared learning using a password protected padlet. We are now looking at this for P4-7, and Seesaw for ELC to P3.

Playground Developments and Funding

Following a creative pitch for a Support for Learning Innovation fund, we have been granted £5000 to support our mission to make our playground more inclusive through play-based approaches. At Sports Day we shared a QR code to seek parents' views on how this money should be spent. This has also been shared on the School App. Many fantastic suggestions have been made by parents. Please note though that play equipment more suited to play parks, such as climbing frames or a swing, require significant changes to be made to ground surfaces to mitigate risk, which comes with an extremely high cost and can be less inclusive with the numbers of users needed to manage this.