

West Lothian Parent Forum

Minutes of Online Meeting

Wed 7th September 2021

Attendees:

Derek Cornwall (Chair), Bathgate Academy,
Catrina Hatch, West Lothian Education Services (Secondary),
Lisamaria Purdie, West Lothian Education Services (Education Officer)
Gillian Bremner, Peel Primary, Inveralmond Community High,
Tracey Irvine, James Young High, Howden Primary,
Mairi Green, West Calder High, Parkhead Primary,
Douglas Maxwell, Linlithgow Academy,
Caitlin Gray, Eliburn Nursery,
Evelyn Williams, St. John's Ogilvy Primary,
Nigel Martin-Low, Southdale Primary,
Louise Elder, James Young High School
Lynne McWilliams, Broxburn Academy, Uphall Primary
Mark Darroch, Linlithgow Primary
Shonamarie Ross, Holy Family Primary
Linda Harkings, East Calder Primary
Angela Ritchie, Deans Community High
Jayne Naysmith, Inverlamond Community High School

Topics

1. Apologies

Received from Greg Welsh (West Lothian Education Services – Primary).

2. Minutes & Matters arising

None as first meeting

3. Chair's Update

a) Frequency of Meetings

Derek stated that he had consulted representatives from the National Parent Forum of Scotland (NPFS) about frequency of Local Authority wide meetings and whilst no model fits all authority areas, the average was three meetings per school year. Derek proposed to go with three meetings to be held in September, January and May), with any extra ordinary meetings being held as necessary. This was agreed by members and Derek to provide dates for future meetings and post these on the WL Parent Forum website.

b) NPFS West Lothian Representative

Derek advised members that he was also the NPFS West Lothian Representative to which any local or National education issues or advice could be addressed or sought.

c) West Lothian Parent Forum Web Page

Derek outlined the work he had undertaken since his appointment with Lisa Marie Purdie from Education Services in setting up our Parent Forum web page on the Council's web site. The link to our parent forum website below:

<https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/wl-parent-forum>

4. Back Up Your Child Poster Update

Derek presented the revised poster from the 2020 Backup Your Child Poster Campaign that was previously issued to all West Lothian Schools. The poster will be issued to Education Services by Derek and distributed for the attention of all Chairs' of West Lothian Parent Councils to consider its use to encourage parental involvement in their child's educational journey.

5. Wellbeing and Parent Council Banners – Bathgate Academy

(a) **Wellbeing Banner** – Derek presented the Wellbeing banner created by Bathgate Academy parent council that is displayed within the school and this compliments the Wellbeing work being undertaken by the school. This keeps a consistent approach as pupils, teachers and fellow professionals are all using the same language. Derek stated that he sees this poster as being likened to a MOT check for parents about their child under each of the eight wellbeing indicators and if there was any concern then to approach their school in the first instance. A copy of the poster can be seen in Appendix One.

(b) **Parent Council Work Banner**

Derek also presented to members the Parent Council - What we do banner as an alternative graphic solution that summarises the work of the Parent Council. Whilst each parent council main tasks may differ from that of Bathgate Academy, the content of a graphic poster can sometimes get the message across rather than use lots of words.

In the case of the Bathgate Academy poster, the design was centred on a train track where parent council tasks can get off and come back on at each of the work stations and how this parental involvement journey is a continuous loop. A simple but different banner that outlines the main tasks of our parent council and how parents can get involved. A copy of the poster can be seen in Appendix Two.

6. Around the Schools

Derek advised members that this standing agenda item was to be used to promote and share any work being carried out by parent councils or any initiatives within the school that could be used or would benefit the wider West Lothian school environment. Any examples either from ELC/Primary or Secondary school could also be displayed on the West Lothian Parent Forum web site as a showcase to promote best practices across the school/parent

platform. Members to contact Derek with details should they wish their initiatives placed on the WL Parent Forum website.

7. Education Services

a) 2021 WL s5/6 Assessment Results

Catrina Hatch provided a presentation to members on West Lothian Senior Phase Attainment over the years and further information is available in Appendix Three.

b) 2021/22 SQA Exams & Curriculum

Catrina stated that whilst current covid 19 guidelines has had an impact on pupils ability to sit exams normally, there will be modifications to the curriculum and exam requirements with some topics being cancelled and possibly further restrictions being issued by the Scottish Government.

c) Covid 19 Update

Catrina provided an update to members on the latest guidance being issued and the mitigation measures being adopted across all schools. These include staff vaccinations, Lateral Flow Testing, self isolation measures and parental reporting of pupil absences as a result of any positive cases.

8. A.O.C.B

- a) A question was asked about the new school mitigation measures on ventilation with CO2 monitors being in place and a reading from every school to be undertaken. Catrina replied that every school had to have a reading taken by the end of October and that the new CO2 directive would be forwarded to the parent forum for information

Post meeting update: directive sent out by education services below:

Ventilation and CO2 monitoring directive sent out to Education Directors on 1st September 2021: we are aware of excellent joint working between ADES Resources, SHOPS, Scottish Futures Trust and Scottish Government colleagues to date on issues regarding ventilation and CO2 monitoring. We would be grateful if a strong focus could be retained on this going forward, with a particular emphasis on ensuring that strengthened guidance on CO2 monitoring is implemented effectively. This should help us reach our shared goal of every school/ELC building, including every learning, teaching and childcare space, being assessed by CO2 monitoring (fixed or mobile) by the October 2021 break.

9. Date of Next meeting

Thursday 3rd February 2022, at 7pm Online Meeting

Appendix One – Wellbeing Poster



Improving
our children's
educational experience.

Getting It Right For Every Child.
Here are the eight wellbeing indicators.



A large, colorful poster with a teal background. It features eight wellbeing indicators, each in a speech bubble of a different color: SAFE (light blue), INCLUDED (green), RESPONSIBLE (maroon), ACTIVE (red), HEALTHY (purple), ACHIEVING (yellow), NURTURED (pink), and RESPECTED (dark blue). Each indicator is accompanied by a small illustration of a child engaged in an activity: a girl reading, a boy on a laptop, a girl on a laptop, a girl on a laptop, a girl on a laptop, a girl on a laptop, a girl on a laptop, and a boy on a laptop. At the bottom center is the Bathgate Academy crest, which includes a shield with a castle, a star, and a banner that reads 'HONOS HABET ONUS'. The entire poster is set against a dark red background at the bottom.

For more information on our
Parent Council wellbeing work, visit
www.bathgateacademy.westlothian.org.uk

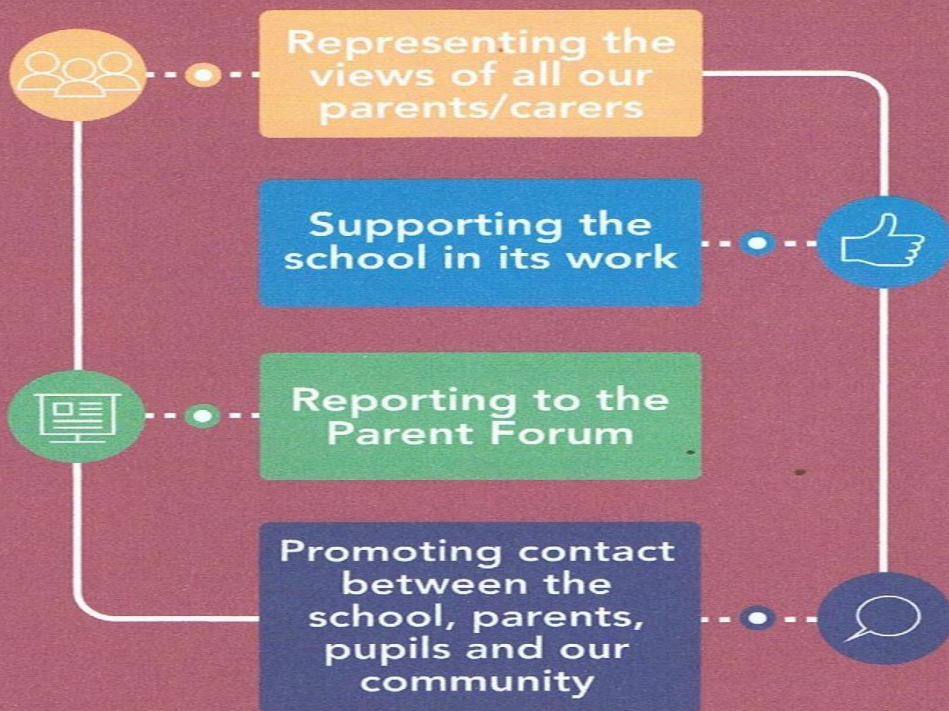
Appendix Two – Parent Council - What we do Poster



Welcome to Bathgate Academy
Parent Council

Improving our children's educational experience

What does our Parent Council do?



Have a say in your child's educational learning

For more information on our Parent Council visit www.bathgateacademy.westlothian.org.uk

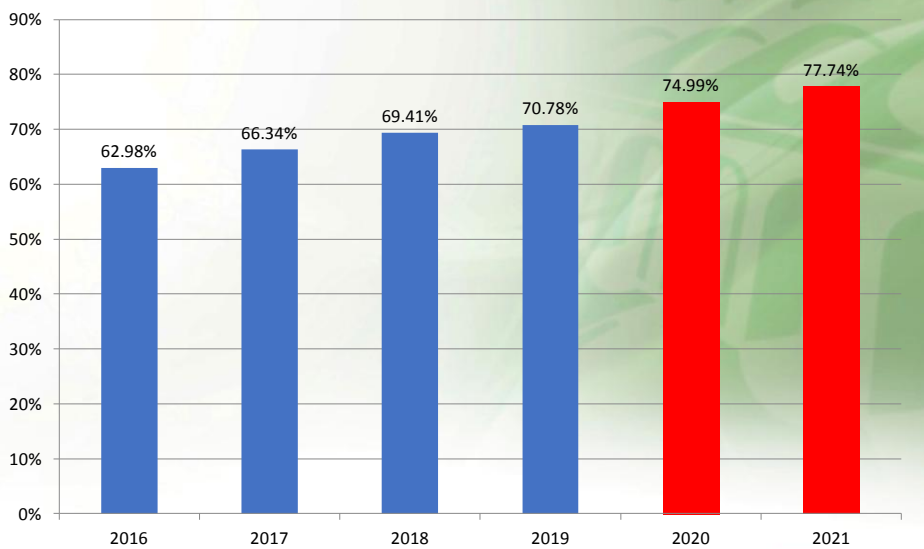


Appendix 3 – S5/S6 Senior Phase Attainment Trend

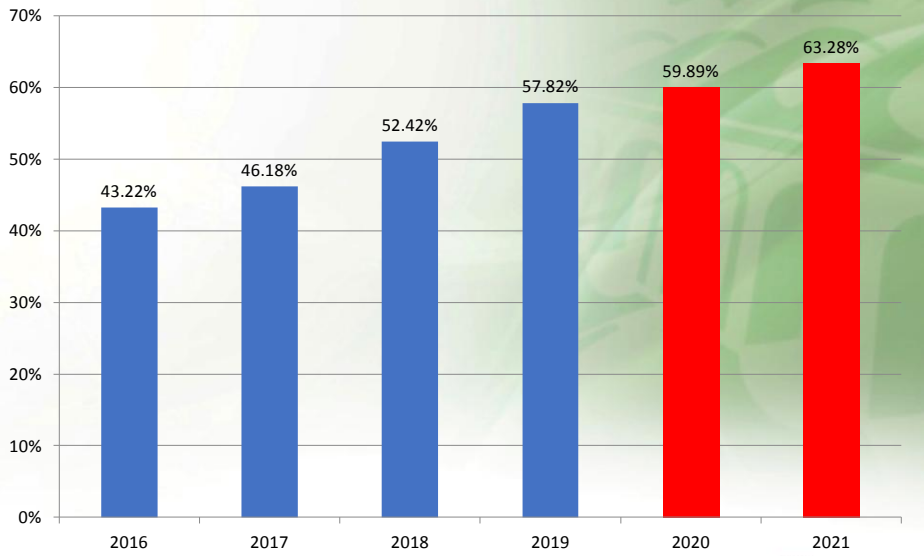
West Lothian Senior Phase Attainment Over Time



SCQF S5 1+ Level 6 - West Lothian Attainment



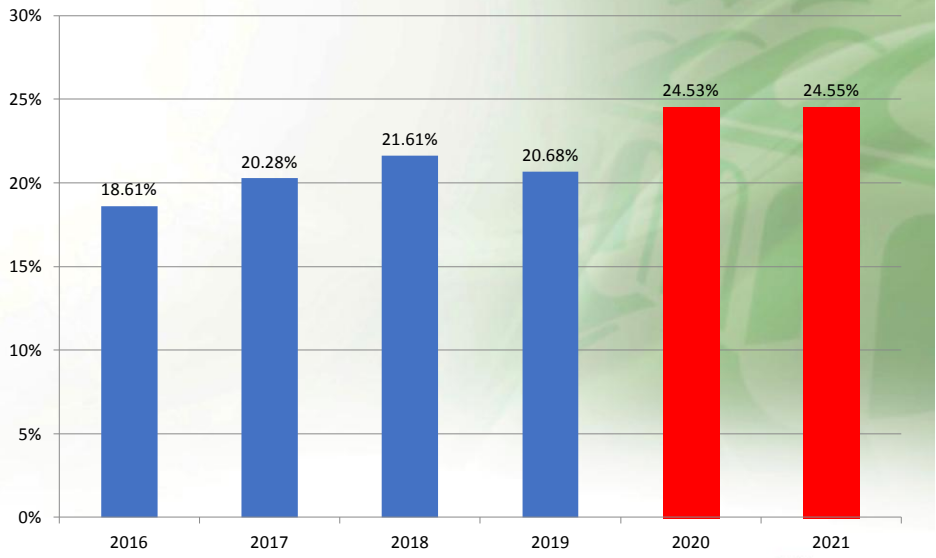
SCQF S5 3+ Level 6 - West Lothian Attainment



SCQF S5 5+ Level 6 - West Lothian Attainment



SCQF S6 1+ Level 7 - West Lothian Attainment



End of Presentation