**What is a Parent Council and what does it do?**

**What is a Parent Council?**

All Parents in the school are described as the **Parent Forum.**

A **Parent Council** is the committee appointed by the **Parent Forum** to run matters on its behalf. It is run by the parents in the school and should represent ALL the parents in the school. It is supported in legislation by the **Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006.**

**What can a Parent Council do?**

**Consult and Collaborate -** consult with all parents about matters which affect the life of the school and contribute to discussions about these including surveys and questionnaires in collaboration with the school. A Parent Council may consult and collaborate on any of these:

* Learning and teaching
* The school improvement plan
* Issues related to school budgets and school funding
* Recruitment to the school’s Senior Leadership Team and School Inspection
* Issues related to pupil safety like parking and transport, building improvements
* School Policies
* Represent parents’ views to the education authority and others on those issues that are of concern to parents, pupils and staff

**Campaign -** campaign, on behalf of the school about matters directly affecting children. This might include campaigning about

* Parking and traffic issues
* Budgets
* School transport
* School Closures

**Fundraise -** Fundraise to help the school add value to what it offers to children. This is often the function of a Parent Teacher Association.

The PTA can function independently or be a sub-group of the Parent Council

**Why is having a Parent Council important?**

* You can express ideas and share thoughts with school through the Parent Council on issues affecting children in school
* It helps the Headteacher to parent proof communication
* Collaborating with the school is a good thing for you, your children and the school
* Research suggests that when school and parents work together the outcomes for children in terms of attainment and achievement are better
* Effective Parent Councils can be a support to the community as well as the school
* We need each other – particularly at the moment!

**So can Parent Councils talk about anything to do with school?**

You should ask the school to deal with matters related to your own child’s experience at school; you should ask the Parent Council to deal with more general concerns which may affect many/all children in the school.

**No concerns about individual pupils, families, teachers or individual school issues should be discussed at Parent Council meetings. These concerns should always be referred to the Head Teacher.**

Some examples below will help you understand what a Parent Council can and should discuss and what should be referred to the school directly.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Matters the school will deal with** | **Matters the Parent Council will deal with** |
| Concerns re your own child’s learning | Supporting learning at home, family learning, tips for supporting homework, engagement in School Improvement Planning |
| A bullying incident which has affected your child | Consultation about school anti-bullying policy or other policy development |
| An issue about a particular teacher | recruitment for Senior Leadership, involvement in school inspections |
| Concerns about another child | Consultation on supporting inclusion |
| Your child’s transition from Nursery to P1, Primary to Secondary, or Secondary to leaving school | Support in transition events |
| Children cycling in the playground | Campaigning to support road safety |

**So the Parent Council is about…**

* Working collaboratively with the school
* Supporting Learning and Teaching
* Contributing to the School Improvement Plan and school policies
* Supporting the school in making sure communication is parent friendly
* Working with the school on campaigns
* Fundraising
* Representing the views of all parents in the school

**The Parent Council is not about….**

* Discussing individual issues a parent has about their child, another child or other parents or teachers – these should be referred to school
* Holding the headteacher to account. A Parent Council should develop and promote collaboration by working in partnership with the school

**If you are interested in joining our Parent Council please contact us at St Andrews School Association email sasafraserburgh@gmail.com.**