Abernant Primary School

Parent Council
Date – 26.11.26

Agenda/Minutes

Present
Parents
Aimee Miles, Sinead Burns, Lauren Hughes, Tanith Williams, Natalie Williams, Staci Newnian
School Staff
Mrs Lewis (DHT) Miss Coombs (Class Teacher)

Apologies – Charlotte Baker, Stuart Parfitt

Focus/Activity/Outcome/Impact

Agenda

- Purpose of council
- SDP target - Careers
- Parent views - successes of Abernant
- Questions

Minutes

- **Purpose and aims of the Council**

The purpose of the Parent Council was shared with all attendees. It was explained that the group has been established to strengthen relationships between parents and the school, recognising that there can sometimes be a disconnect between home and school. The Parent Council will provide an open and positive forum for communication, enabling parents and school staff to work together, share ideas, discuss matters of importance, and support the ongoing development of the school community. The aim is to encourage meaningful dialogue and ensure that parents' views are heard and valued.

- **SDP Target – To develop and embed purposeful Careers and Work-Related Experiences across the Curriculum**

The School Development Plan (SDP) target, **"To develop and embed purposeful Careers and Work-Related Experiences across the Curriculum,"** was shared with the group.
Parents discussed what they felt was important for children to know, understand and experience in preparation for the future world of work. Key themes included helping children understand how learning in school links to real-life situations and careers, recognising that career pathways are not always straightforward and can change

over time, and reassuring children that there is no need to make definite career decisions at an early age.
Parents felt it was important for children to be encouraged to dream big, think creatively about future possibilities, and understand that a wide range of career options, including practical and vocational roles, should be valued and celebrated.
Career City was highlighted as an opportunity to showcase a broad range of careers and help children think beyond more traditional job roles.
A number of suggestions were made for providing authentic career-related experiences, including:

- Opportunities to learn how to look after themselves and develop independent life skills.
- Experiences of using public transport.
- A dedicated careers day.
- Visits to workplaces and local businesses.
- Strengthening links with local care homes.
- Organising a Grandparents' Day to share experiences and skills.
- Inviting parent volunteers to read with children and talk about their jobs and career journeys.

The Parent Council unanimously agreed that many parents would welcome opportunities to come into school and share information about their jobs and career pathways, helping children gain a better understanding of the diverse range of careers available to them.
The group also discussed ways to involve local businesses and organisations within the Abernant community to support careers education and provide meaningful real-world experiences for pupils.
Finally, parents discussed the skills they believe children will need most for the future world of work.

- **School successes**

Parents were invited to share aspects of the school that they feel are particularly successful. It was highlighted that the school is welcoming and approachable, with parents feeling comfortable speaking to staff and raising any questions or concerns.
The group also praised the weekly Walk to School Bus, recognising the positive impact it has on pupils' wellbeing, physical activity and sense of community.

- **Areas for improvements/questions**

Parents discussed several areas where they felt the school could continue to improve.
A key theme was communication, with parents expressing a desire for greater transparency and more timely updates. Parents also commented that they preferred the format of previous school newsletters and suggested that newsletters could be displayed more prominently around the school.
Parents were keen to see pupils provided with more opportunities to engage with local, everyday experiences and for a wider range of visitors to come into school to share their skills, experiences and knowledge.

The group also discussed ways to increase parental involvement within the school community. Suggestions included seeking parent volunteers to support school improvement projects, listen to learners read, assist with performances and rehearsals, and contribute to a range of learning experiences across the school. Parents felt that increasing opportunities for involvement would further strengthen relationships between home and school and help build a stronger sense of community.

Parents also discussed the perception that there can sometimes be negativity or concerns shared amongst parents on the school yard that are not always raised directly with the school. Staff emphasised that the school prides itself on being approachable and that creating opportunities for open and honest dialogue was one of the key reasons for establishing the Parent Council. It was agreed that the strongest relationships are built through two-way communication, and that the school can only continue to improve for the benefit of all children when concerns, ideas and feedback are shared openly and constructively between parents and staff.

Parents asked what children have available to play with during break times, as there is not always equipment visible on the yard. It was explained that trained Playground Monitors from Years 5 and 6 support play on both yards. Using a rota system, they collect and distribute equipment from the playground shed at the start of playtimes. Available resources include items such as giant Jenga, stilts and noughts-and-crosses games. All equipment is collected and stored away after playtimes to ensure it remains in good condition and can be enjoyed by pupils throughout the year.

Agreed next steps:

- Send out a questionnaire to all parents to find out what careers they have and if they are willing to come into school to share this with the children.
- Newsletters will be sent out at the end of each term ahead of the next so that dates are shared. The PTFA will also include dates of events where they can. If events are planned for but not yet assigned a date they will be included and marked TBC. These newsletters will be shared on Schoop, Facebook (and pinned to the featured section), displayed on school doors and in the office.
- Plan the outdoor classroom and involve parents in the development of this.
- Plan local trips and/or visitors to come into school.

Next meeting date: Wednesday 20th January 2027

Impact