Peebles High School Parent Council

Minutes of meeting held at 7:00pm on Wednesday 16th September 2026 @ PHS

	Action owner
1. In attendance Tristan Compton (Chair), Alexander Corbishley (Secretary), Gillian Moran (Communication and events), Kevin Ryalls (Head Teacher), Emma Ferguson (Principal Teacher, Pastoral), Sue Gillan, Connie Flynn, Stephanie Baron-Feyet, Sally Lord, Gillian Foley, Heather McAndrew, Sarah Howie, Kate Gibson, Claire Barrett, Ellie Johnstone, Sarah Dixon, Nicola McLellan, senior prefects. Joining online Rachel & Donald Crease, Caroline Spence, Helen, Mrs Crombie, Daniel Davis Wood, Adamson, Gwydion, Kirsty Apologies None	
2. Introductions The meeting opened with an introduction from the incoming Chair of the Parent Council, who welcomed attendees and outlined the role of the Parent Council. The Chair emphasised the Council's purpose: to support the school, represent parents' views collaboratively, while avoiding involvement in individual pupil matters. The Chair also thanked outgoing Chair Ellie Johnstone for her leadership and highlighted the value of parent involvement in school activities, including fundraising through the Friends of Peebles High School. The senior prefects were welcomed to the meeting. It was noted that the best way to contact the Parent Council was through e-mail: phspc@outlook.com. Any parent wishing to join the Parent Council as a member or postholder is encouraged put their name forward by email, and will be made very welcome. **Agreed Actions:** Parent Council to promote opportunities for parents to engage in school activities and fundraising. Parent Council to encourage participation in the Friends of Peebles High School charity.	**Postholders** **Postholders**
3. Chair's update The Chair provided an overview of the Parent Council's priorities for the year, including: • Encouraging more parents to become active members, either as post holders or ordinary members. • Promoting the school's fundraising initiatives, such as Easy Fundraising when shopping online, the Friends of Peebles High School Lottery (£6 subscription with prizes drawn quarterly, top prize £100) and matched giving from employers. • Highlighting the upcoming Careers Fair 6-8 pm on 4 November 2026, which will include exhibitors from various professions and sectors. The event is open to all, with pupils from P6-S6 particularly encouraged to attend. Approximately 60 exhibitors	

will have stands at the event. Invitations were extended for parents or friends to talk about their jobs at the career's events. • The next Parent Council meeting will focus on post-school support and university application deadlines. **Agreed Actions:** Parent Council to promote the Careers Fair and encourage parental involvement as exhibitors or volunteers. Parent Council to share details of fundraising initiatives (Easy Fundraising, Lottery, and Matched Giving) with the parent community.	**Claire Barrett** **Postholders**
4. Head Teacher's update The Headteacher's update started with an introduction from the senior prefects who spoke about their work supporting the Glen, S2 physics, maths, the modelling of behaviours (e.g. uniform, litter picking, small acts of kindness) and bystander training. They focused on the importance of the school values. The Headteacher outlined the six assemblies each year that provide an opportunity for students and staff to model leadership and to make the format more interactive. Last year the focus was on autism. The Headteacher provided an update on school performance and developments, including: **Attainment and School Improvement Report (SIR) 2025-26:** The school is in a period of declining roll due to smaller primary school rolls. has seen a drop in pupil numbers over recent years, with a current S1 cohort of approximately 190 pupils. Despite this, the school has maintained high staying-on rates in S5 and S6 compared to other schools and PHS has welcomed 17 new enrolments this session from out of catchment. The shrinking school role has meant that some staff posts have not been replaced following resignations. The priority is to ensure that S1-3 classes are 25-30 pupils as much as possible so as to free up resources for more flexible class arrangements for S4-6. Performance of the bottom 20% of achievers has been an area of focus for the school, with improvements noted over the past year. Focus going forward: improve tracking of student performance, maintain S6 performance with a particular focus on support for current S5 cohort, look to learn from best practice of schools outside the Scottish Borders. The School Improvement Report (SIR) has been posted to the website with self-evaluation set at 'Good' with capacity to achieve 'Excellent'. **School Improvement Plan (SIP) 2026-27:** Focus areas for the year include: • Implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) to enhance pupil awareness of their rights. Articles of focus: no discrimination, access to education and aims of education. • Strengthening the school's tracking system to better monitor pupil progress.	

• Promoting the school values (Kindness, Contribute, and Working Hard) through assemblies and student-led initiatives. • Introduction of learning conversations to formalise feedback for pupils and parents. • Assessment windows to replace traditional prelims, with assessments integrated into class time and deployment of Exam.net software. • Focus on supporting learners with additional support needs, including ADHD, following successful training sessions for staff. • S2 academies The school will be asking more from parents to engage with Showbie and be involved with feedback and reflection in the learner conversations. The usual SBC parents' survey will be run in March 2027. The Chair noted that in the past the PC ran their own survey, the consensus was that this was not necessary going forward.	
5. UNCRC The Principal Teacher for Pastoral Support provided an overview of the school's progress in achieving the UNCRC Silver Award and plans to progress to Gold. Key points included: • The UNCRC focuses on 42 articles outlining the rights of children and young people, with 54 articles in total. Rights are universal, inherent, inalienable, unconditional and indivisible. • The school has made progress in upholding these rights but recognises a need to better promote them to pupils. • A survey revealed that only 5% of pupils felt they knew a lot about their rights, while 40% knew little or nothing. • The school aims to embed rights education into the curriculum and school ethos, linking it to the school's values of Kindness (Article 2), Contribute (Article 29), and Working Hard (Article 28). • Three strands to gold award: Strand A teaching about rights, Strand B ethos and relationships through rights, Strand C empowerment and participation of children and young people **Agreed Actions:** • Parent Council to support the promotion of the UNCRC, particularly by encouraging parents to discuss children's rights at home. • Parent Council to collaborate with the school to identify opportunities for parents to engage with UNCRC initiatives.	**Postholders** **EF to connect with EJ**
6. Open forum discussion Parents raised several topics in the open forum, including: • **Website Accessibility:** Feedback that the school's website is not mobile-friendly and lacks clarity for parents, particularly regarding calendars and updates. A parent volunteered to assist in reviewing and improving the website. • **Assessment Windows:** Clarification on the new assessment windows replacing prelims, with a focus on integrating assessments into class time and providing clearer communication for parents. • **Uniform Standards:** Concerns about some standards of uniform, particularly the wearing of low-slung ties and skirt length. Parents,	

prefects and the school acknowledged progress in uniform standards in recent years, but agreed to consider providing clearer guidance for parents and pupils, particularly for new S1 pupils. • **Lockers and Coat Storage:** A parent raised the ongoing issue of lack of storage for coats and bags, suggesting the installation of lockers or coat hooks. The school acknowledged the challenge, confirmed that all new schools in the borders are being built without lockers, and committed to exploring feasible solutions. • **S1 parents' evening**: There were issues with the in person S1 parents' evening timings last year as there was no bell to indicate when to move on to the next appointment. It was noted that all parents' evenings this year will be in person, apart from mop up meetings, which will be online. • **S6 UCAS evening:** The S6 UCAS information evening was commended. It was agreed that next year it would be good to invite S5 to this as well, particularly given the requirement of some courses that grades must be achieved by specific milestones and at first sitting. **Agreed Actions:** • Review and improve mobile readability of the school's website (SB-F offered to help). • School to explore feasible solutions for coat and bag storage, such as coat hooks or designated areas, and report back to the Parent Council. • Consider timekeeping options for future parents' evenings • Invite S5s to UCAS evening in September 2027	**KR** **KR** **KR** **KR**
7. Next meeting 27th October 2026 at PHS and hybrid	