

WEST LINTON PARENTS COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE YEAR 2007/08

The main activity this year has been the creation of the Parents Council itself. A Working Group to lay the foundations for the PC was set up in February last year and worked throughout the spring to develop a constitution for the PC, which was completed and submitted in May last year and approved by SBC.

After the summer break, the PC convened and held its first meeting in October, just over a year ago. The PC has 18 active parent members and 3 staff members and has met 6 more times since that first meeting.

Finding our feet has been the main challenge, with a large and enthusiastic group of people all keen to contribute and to bring certain issues to the fore, and with little or no outside guidance to help us – we have had to make it up as we went along. We have only just, I feel, begun to settle into the role, but still have more to do, for example, in developing the use of class representatives and in making more use of working groups to focus on issues. This will, I'm sure, happen over the next year.

Another 'barrier' to making the progress our members want has been the profusion of consultations coming out of SBC, with 3 major ones (TCS, Parental Involvement, Terms/week structure) and others that have taken up a lot of time – hopefully, this will be less of a feature of next year and the PC can begin to develop its own programme of work.

However, that is not to say we have done little over the year. We have given a great deal of thought to issues such as:

- Additional needs resources;
- The Robinsland development and the effect it may have on the new school site;
- The development of the new school itself;
- Lobbying Councillors with regard to budget cuts (with all three of our Councillors attending a meeting at our request to discuss this); and
- Composite classes.

Our involvement in these areas has had a positive effect in many ways and these are areas that the PC will wish to continue to focus on in the coming year.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as chair – challenging but always rewarding. I have enjoyed working with all of the PC members and the school staff and with Hilary in particular, who I have come to respect greatly as a dedicated professional who leads a team here at the school that provides our children with a wonderful environment in which to learn and develop.

Best wishes to you all and to Steven as he takes on the role of chair, and I hope that the PC goes from strength to strength.

Michael Pryor, 4 November 2008