

# Constitution of Stromness Primary School Parent Council

(unincorporated association)

## 1. Name

The Parent Council shall be known as the Stromness Primary School Parent Council (often simply referred to as SPS PC).

The Parent Council is a group of parents / carers with children attending Stromness Primary School (early years and primary settings) elected at an AGM to represent the Parent Forum.

The Parent Forum is any parent / carer with children attending Stromness Primary School.

## 2. Aims

The Advancement of Education which will be achieved by the following methods:

- a) Promoting close co-operation and communication between parents and school staff
- b) Promoting equality and fairness
- c) The study and discussion of matters of mutual interest relating to the education and welfare of pupils
- d) Engaging in activities which support and advance the education of pupils attending the school

## 3. Powers

The Parent Council shall have the power to do anything considered by them to be in furtherance of the aims but remembering that they are there to represent the views of the Parent Forum (parents/carers of pupils at the school).

## 4. Membership of the Parent Council

The membership of the Parent Council (those who represent the Parent Forum and stand on the Parent Council) consists of parents/carers of children attending Stromness Primary School as selected by the Parent Forum (all parents and carers with a child at the school).

The Parent Council will be a minimum of 6 members and a maximum of 20 members.

## 5. General Meetings

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall usually be held in September each year, or any other convenient month. The notice calling the meeting shall be sent to the Parent Forum at least two weeks in advance. Meetings may take place online and/or in person, but the notice period and AGM procedures remain the same.

The business shall include:-

- a) the work of the Parent Council (often as reports from the Chair and the Treasurer)
- b) approval of the accounts
- c) appointment of an individual who will review the annual accounts
- d) any resolutions submitted by the Parent Forum
- e) election of members to serve on the Parent Council

At all general meetings, voting shall be on the basis of one vote per parent/carer present at the meeting. Co-opted members on Parent Councils do not have a vote nor does the headteacher, staff members, councillors or local authority staff attending.

At all general meetings, the quorum shall consist of 6.

The Parent Council, or 30 of the Parent Forum, shall have power to call an Extraordinary General Meeting. This request must be submitted in writing to the Parent Council Chair.

## **6. Parent Council Membership**

Members of the Parent Council shall be appointed at the AGM from the Parent Forum. They shall be elected for a one-year term and be eligible for re-election. Parents shall always form the majority of the Parent Council.

The Office Bearers will be Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and such others as may be required. The office bearers will be elected by the Parent Council at the first meeting after the AGM.

The Headteacher or his/her representative has a right and a duty to attend meetings of the Parent Council,

The Parent Council may co-opt up to 4 persons to help carry out its functions at any time. The co-opted members shall retire at the AGM but shall be eligible to be co-opted for a further term. Co-opted members do not have a vote.

Each parent/carer member of the Parent Council shall have one vote and resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority vote of those present. The Chairperson shall have both a deliberative and casting vote – one vote as a PC member and one vote as Chair.

The Chairperson's casting vote shall be used only in the event of a tie.

The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping accurate minutes of all meetings and shall make these available upon request to any member of the Parent Forum.

A member of the Parent Council failing to attend three consecutive meetings without reason/apologies may be deemed to have retired from the Parent Council.

If a Parent Council member acts in a way that is not within the aims/objectives of the Parent Council or brings the parent group into disrepute, according to the Code of Conduct, they may be expelled from the Parent Council by a majority vote of at least two thirds majority in an ordinary meeting.

Any meeting to expel a Parent Council member must be called giving Parent Council members at least 21 days notice, and the member concerned shall be entitled to be heard at the meeting.

## **7. Ordinary Meetings**

Meetings of the Parent Council shall be held as required. Meetings may take place virtually (e.g. online) and/or in person. Meeting reminders shall be sent 2 weeks prior with a call for agenda items. The agenda shall be made available one week before the meeting.

At all meetings of the Parent Council 6 shall form a quorum.

All Parent Council ordinary meetings shall be open to members of the Parent Forum (parents and carers at the school) although they will not have voting rights.

## **8. Finance**

The funds of the Parent Council shall be lodged in a bank, building society or other account in the name of the Parent Council. Cheques shall be drawn, or withdrawals made against the signatures of at least two named Parent Council members. For electronic banking, make sure transactions are carefully recorded and shared at meetings. Invoices and expenses repayments should be signed off by two people.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping accurate records of the financial transactions of the Parent Council. The books shall be brought to balance six weeks before the AGM and the accounts shall be reviewed by an individual appointed at the previous AGM by the Parent Forum. The Treasurer should report on finances at every meeting.

The Parent Council shall be responsible for ensuring that all property/money received by/for the Parent Forum/Council shall be applied for the aims of the Parent Council.

## **9. Changes to the Constitution**

Changes or additions must be made at an AGM, or an EGM called for the purpose. The proposed change shall be specified in the notice calling the meeting and be approved by not less than two thirds of all parents/carers present.

## **10. Dissolution**

In the event that the Parent Council ceases to exist, any remaining funds pass to Stromness Primary School.

Adopted at AGM on 11/09/24

*Daniel Lee* (Chair)