

Agenda with Minutes Hamstel Infant School and Nursery Parent Council

Meeting Date: Wednesday 14th October 2026 **Time:** 9.00am

Venue: Hamstel Infant School and Nursery

Name	Class	Present
(VT) Vicki Tracy	Chair – Vice Principal	/
(SR) Scott Roche	Principal	
	Seahorse	
	Starfish	
Laura Watts	Owl	/
Ann Brown		
	Woodpecker	
Emma Stoakes	Kingfisher	/
Charlotte Good		/
Lilane Rheeder	Peacock	/
Matt Driscoll	Dragonfly	/
	Duck	
	Heron	
Josie Barnes	Newt	/
Nathalie Gales		/
Daniela Howell	Otter	/
	Fox	
	Hedgehog	
	Squirrel	

Apologies:

AGENDA

1) Welcome to Parent Council Expectations and purpose of Parent Council	Why have a Parent Council? - Strengthen the partnership between home and school. - Provide a constructive forum where parents can share ideas, views and feedback. - Celebrate what is working well and help identify opportunities for improvement. - Support the school in making informed decisions that benefit all children and families. - Act as a bridge between the wider parent community and the school. Common Goal: ensuring the best possible experience and outcomes for our children. Expectations: We aim for our meetings to be productive and positive, so we ask all council members to: - To focus around the impact on the children and the wider school community in discussions. - Represent all families, consider the views and experiences of the whole community, not just individual concerns or personal circumstances. - Be respectful, listen to different perspectives, allowing everyone to contribute and engage in discussions positively. - Maintain confidentiality, some discussions may involve sensitive information. We want to build trust within the group. - Raise questions, themes, suggestions and concerns constructively, and where possible help identify potential solutions. - Work collaboratively, school staff and parents are working towards the same goals and that partnership is key to success. - Share agreed information with the wider parent community accurately and help promote a positive and supportive school environment. - Attend meetings regularly where possible. Members agreed to these expectations collectively.
2) School Priorities 2026-2027	Our new school priorities were shared.
3) WhatsApp Guidance	Confirmed that the guidance has gone out. Matt asked if we were happy to share our guidance with the Juniors. Parent Council agreed. <i>VT has shared with HJ.</i>
4) Transition	At our last meeting some points were raised about nursery to Reception transition events and meetings – all these points were raised to Mrs. Bryant and a questionnaire has gone out to Reception parents about transition this half term. Some points were raised about Year 2 transition concerning lack of communication etc. from HJ. We have raised points and are in discussions about future transitions. Further points raised:

	- Parents have raised there is a frustration with yr2 to yr3 in terms of the different logos on uniform. Parents have raised that junior staff have told children that they can't come in with the infant logo and have turned them away. - Parents understand we have different uniforms but can there be a cross over with the logos or completely separate uniforms. - Parents have also raised reception parents already have concerns about going to the juniors as have heard they are very different, the infants are very nurture, enrichment, inclusive etc. and juniors are very different. It was explained that we do work collaboratively and that Mr. Roche and Mrs. Farrell meet at least once every half term. It was also shared that the junior school have been developing their own inclusive rooms to support SEND and SEMH in schools.
5) Premier Clubs	We have taken on feedback and are in the process of discussion with Premier Education.
6) School Lunches	We have taken on the points about school lunches that were raised at the previous meetings. We are going to be carrying out a questionnaire around school lunches this week during parent evenings. One of the areas that we are going to look into with Pabulum is being able to sample more of the food at Parent and Open Evenings. – Parent Council liked the idea of this. Further points raised: - The questionnaire question around portion sizes. There is a question around are we introducing chicken dippers? - The meal choices are too adventurous. - Could we have laminated photos in the pack for starting in reception – bit like the information we get for what to put in your pack lunches. - Tasting table has really worked well with a child tasting lots of new foods. - Can we explore ideas around more children accessing the tasting table, as parents not aware of it and think it would help lots of children, maybe have a table where groups go up. - Why doesn't the pasta have the sauce within it, children choose the cheese over the sauce? - Salad bar not located in a very good position, the children not being encouraged, children not choosing from it. - Could they have cheese as an option with meal as well? - Lots of uncertainty around vegetarian / vegan – menu not clear if vegan / vegetarian. - Packed lunches are coming back full with lunches at home – some teachers have been supporting. - Water intake at lunch times is a concern, can the children take their bottles over? - Can we allow the children who bring bottles with filtered water to go over to the lunch hall – are we able to have filtered water in the hall? There are a few parents who do not allow their children to have tap water.
7) Aspirations Week	We are holding an aspirations week in January. Week beg: Monday 18 th January We have Little Cities booked in.
AOB Raised by Parent Forum:	
- Water – children not drinking enough in class, parents mention to teachers, are they drinking at playtimes? Are they able to have their water bottles on table? Water bottles coming home and not hardly touched. - Bumps and accidents on the playground. The mid-day staff not always passing on the information to the teachers. - Parent Council – website – not updated – apologies for this, we will look into getting this updated. - Not really sure what we are doing with the speed sound books in Reception please could we have some clarification. - Communication books in Reception, parents feel there is some slight confusion round these and their use, could there be some clarity. - Reading books – they were being stamped but recently reads have not been acknowledged. - Newsletter – reception – could dojo's be placed on the newsletter? - More information about when starting PE, assembly, outdoor learning etc. in Reception. - Riding bikes and scooters on the grounds in the morning, still quite a few children riding them. Parent Council agreed it was a parental responsibility and parents should be telling their child to dismount. However please could we have some signs up? We are not always seeing staff outside to support this rule. We will look into getting signs up around the school. - Could we consider having more enrichment trips? – planetarium / museum / more use of the places available on our doorstep. - Could we have a distinction between being late and being late for a medical appointment, as parents didn't feel this was clear on the school reports – Unfortunately we can't do this as there is no distinction on the register where lateness is recorded and this is where the information is taken from for the reports. We have notes in the child's profile around type of absence. - Thank you for some photos that have been added to the newsletter for Year 1 and Year but could we have more photos on events. We will continue to look at ways of sharing more photos and stories around our key events. - Clarification on class consequences – number of children being poorly behaved in class – the whole class having a collective timeout – During this early part of the year, the class teachers are working hard to embed class and whole school behaviour expectations in line with our school values. So typically there will be more whole class messages given. - Year 1 – concerned about change of timings from the theatre and dance club, moved from 4.30pm to 4.15pm – This was raised with the external club and we advised them waiting to change anything until a new block started. Queries should go directly to the club, however the school will also pass on the concerns raised by parents. - Transition into year 1 from Reception has been hard for some children and feel more reassurance for parents would have been appreciated during the first 2 weeks – We were surprised to hear this as our Year 1 team are very nurturing. If a child was having difficulties then this should always be raised with the class teacher. - Parent workshops – phonics / maths / more explanations on how to help at home – this is on our school improvement plan this year. - Dojo Island – could we have more of an explanation around this – There are some games the children can access on the Dojo Platform if parents allow. Ultimately Dojo Platform is used for uploading any home learning or outside extra-curricular activities if they wish as well as uploading adventures with the class mascot. - Children in need – what can the children wear? – The information will go out soon – after half term.	

- The new PE t-shirts do not come up clean and the sizing isn't great – Thank you for the feedback, we will feedback to the suppliers.
- Can we put in a request for a Lollipop person at Poynings Avenue? We can raise this to the council, parents could do this as well to support the school.
- Could we have some toilet facilities for younger children e.g. changing nappies? All of our toilets are accessed by the children who go to Hamstel so this would be a safeguarding issue if it was opened up to younger children and adults were in there.
- Workshops – number of workshops feels excessive – Parent Council felt that what we offer is great and that staff will always do their best to support children who don't have a family member attend.
- Use of apps for year 1 feels too much (Dojo's and Numbots) The Dojo platform is a way for children to communicate any home learning or adventures with the class mascot if they wish to and Numbots is a short interactive way of supporting Number fluency in school. It is not statutory to use these platforms, they are there if they work for you as a way to support learning.
- Outside toilet – lunchtime – is this supervised? Do the children get help in cleaning themselves? Yes the toilets are supervised. We would only assist a child if they had an accident that needed adult support. Any support given would require two adults to safeguard. A child with an intimate care plan would have a signed agreement with all parties to provide assistance with toileting.

Actions:

- Share minutes with staff and SLT.
- Will discuss the points and feedback items raised with relevant staff.
- Minutes to go out to parents.
- Share WhatsApp Guidance with Hamstel Juniors.
- Update Parent Council page on the website.
- Share who the Parent Council Representatives are for this academic year.
- Share questionnaire results and next steps around lunches.
- To explore options of getting signs for outside.

Actions carried over: