

Minutes of Wallace Hall 2-18 Parent Council Meeting  
Monday 27 April 2026, 7pm, Wallace Hall Academy

Present: Tina Fiske, Mr Graham, Mr Blair, Laura Keenan (Chair), Alice Stilgoe (Secretary), Maria Navarro de Sepúlveda, Linda Corrway (Treasurer), Kara Millen, Theo Berman, Thomas Tryon, Mrs Gray

Item	Details	Action
1.	<p><b>Welcome and apologies</b> Apologies: Emily McClennan, Dicky Fusco, Jess Fusco</p>	
2.	<p><b>Approval of previous minutes</b> Previous minutes were approved by Maria Navarro de Sepúlveda and seconded by Theo Berman</p> <p><b>Outstanding action points</b> Barry did not convene subgroup meeting to discuss phones as per minute. To be addressed in item 4.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Matters arising and correspondence</b> Alice reported on meeting with Cllr Jamieson.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Mobile Phone Policy</b> Barry thanked Kara for all the work she did on the survey. Barry noted that the survey generated a significant response from the whole school community, including parents, pupils and staff. He noted that this is an issue about which parents feel strongly, but concluded that the data provided by the survey does not support a full ban. School is working on tightening up the policy and ensuring it is implemented consistently and rigorously, alongside supporting pupils to manage their phones responsibly.</p> <p>There was a heated debate about the pros and cons of mobile phones and a number of parent council members expressed their disappointment in this decision.</p> <p>Linda pointed out that it looks likely that there will be ban of some sort at national level and questioned whether WHA was making plans for alternative devices.</p> <p>Alice asked if SMT would consider restricting phone use at break and lunchtimes in their review of the mobile policy. Mr Bair talked about additional lunchtime clubs and activities, including PE opportunities and the debating society for senior phase pupils.</p>	
5.	<p><b>246 bus route update</b> Barry reported that DGC Transport department stated that they have sufficient capacity to bus pupils that wish to travel to WHA from Dumfries and elsewhere. However, this has not been confirmed officially. Barry will email parents when he receives written confirmation.</p> <p>Barry said that it was a concern about the impact on staffing and budgets if pupil numbers fall due to lack of bus provision. Maria reported that there will be a dedicated school bus for Closeburn pupils.</p>	Barry to email parents when official

6.	<p><b>Headteacher's Report Academy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Senior pupils are starting their exams. The school is moving from SQA to Qualifications Scotland. The CEO is visiting WHA at the end of May to discuss the changes with staff.</li> <li>- On Monday 20 April WHA hosted the Expressive Arts Senior Showcase. It was a successful night, well supported and displayed the enormous talent and hard work of arts, drama and music pupils.</li> <li>- S6 recently enjoyed their coffee morning, leavers' afternoon and Blackpool trip, organised by Mr Blair. An important and joyful end to their school career.</li> </ul> <p><b>Primary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The whole Primary enjoyed a fun day with Dougie Doonhamer, Queen of the South Mascot and Queen of the South staff.</li> <li>- P7 went on a residential trip to Dumfries House and had the opportunity to experience many new experiences and challenges.</li> <li>- The Primary are enjoying lots of outdoor learning and sports activities and P7 are looking forward to their transition events at the Academy.</li> </ul> <p><b>ELC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- P6 is linking with ELC through the Buddy system and helping support ELC pupils as they prepare for moving up into the Primary.</li> <li>- There are many pupils in ELC and there is demand for places. This is a fantastic reflection on the superb team led by the very able Judy Park.</li> <li>- ELC staff undertaking training, including cycling.</li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b>  Balance <b>£3,249.66</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Primary balance: <b>£1,940.08</b></li> <li>- Secondary balance: <b>£305.99</b></li> <li>- Projects balance: <b>£1,003.99</b></li> </ul> <p>Key points  Primary reading fundraiser £1,581.95 (received))  Rotary money for science £200 (received and spent)  P7 ties for academy £145 (spent)</p>	
8.	<p><b>Sub-committee reports – Projects</b>  Linda reported planned revamp of library led by Mr McClair on 21/ 22 May.  Tina and Linda to visit Librarian at NWCC to share best practise and ideas.  Propose doing a fundraiser to support improvements to the library – perhaps leaning on the successful primary fundraising idea.</p>	<p>Barry to discuss with Mr McClair</p>

9.	<p><b>Use of Artificial Intelligence in school</b></p> <p>Barry reported that WHA has a small team focussing on AI and has recently developed an AI policy which has been published on the <a href="#">school website</a>. Barry invited all parent council members to read and make comments. There is no policy at Council wide level. Barry shared WHA policy with other schools in the region and no other school has developed a policy yet. Barry introduced the policy by explaining that it was a starting point and that he welcomed comments. The policy aimed to support using the benefits of AI, whilst at the same time mitigating any risks.</p>	All – read new policy and welcome to comment
10.	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p>Nothing was raised</p>	
11.	<p><b>DONM</b> Monday 15 June 2026, Buccleuch &amp; Queensberry Arms Hotel, Thornhill 5pm</p>	