

**Hayes Primary School Parent Council
Notes of meeting held on Wednesday 15th July 2026
at 2pm at Hayes Primary School**

Present:

Sam Howell (Chair) (SH)
Joanne Bishenden (yr 5) (JB)
Laura Edwards (yr1) (LE)
Eleanor Leedham-Isted (yr 2) (ELI)
Binda Patel (yr 3) (BP)

Apologies:

John Toomey (yr 4) (JT)

Absent:

James Grey (yr 6) (JG)

Also present:

Lucy Bodycombe, Clerk (LB)

1. Welcome, Apologies, introductions and minutes of the previous meeting

- SH opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees.
- The Parent Council (PC) discussed membership for the 2026/27 academic year. Vacancies will be available for representatives from Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 5. Parents/carers will be invited to express an interest, with further information also included in the annual parent survey.
- The PC members who are stepping down were thanked for their time and contributions.
- The notes of the previous meeting on 13th April 2026 were agreed.

2. Parent Council members from September 2026

- The PC discussed membership for the 2026/27 academic year. Vacancies will be available for representatives from Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 5. Parents/carers will be invited to express an interest, with further information also included in the annual parent survey.

3. Sports day feedback

- The Council congratulated the school on a successful Sports Day, particularly highlighting the country colour format and organisation. Some parents/carers had raised concerns about the cost of purchasing items in the required colours.
- Suggestions for future events included a class flag parade, commentary, Olympic style elements and louder announcements to enhance the atmosphere. Following the cancellation of the KS1 event, the timing of Sports Day was also discussed, including whether holding it earlier in the summer term could reduce the risk of disruption.
- The end-of-year parent survey will seek views on whether Sports Day should continue as one full-day event or be held over two separate mornings. The school will consider parental feedback when planning future events.

**Hayes Primary School Parent Council
Notes of meeting held on Wednesday 15th July 2026
at 2pm at Hayes Primary School**

4. Open discussion

- **School toilets update**

The PC received an update on the ongoing concerns regarding the school toilets. Although the issue has been reported, financial constraints currently prevent improvement works from taking place. Additional cleaning arrangements will be introduced in the meantime.

- **Home School Partnership**

The PC was thanked for the feedback it had provided on the Home School Partnership. It was confirmed that comments had been taken on board. The revised Home School Partnership will be included in the school handbook from September.

- **KS1 Playbased learning**

The PC discussed playbased learning in KS1. It was clarified that playbased learning is not a statutory requirement and that approaches vary between schools.

SH explained that formal teaching is introduced gradually during Year 1, with the first half of the autumn term focusing on helping children settle and transition successfully from Reception. The school will remain flexible should the needs of a particular cohort require a play-based learning approach. The PC suggested that this information would be useful for prospective and current parents/carers, and should be included within the parent handbook.

- **Parent Survey**

The annual parent survey will be circulated before the end of the academic year. Responses will be analysed over the summer, with findings presented to the school at the beginning of the autumn term and discussed at the September PC meeting. It was agreed that the majority of questions would remain unchanged, with additional questions included, such as feedback relating to school lunches.

- **Dress-up days**

The PC raised concerns regarding the number of themed dress up days taking place within a short timeframe, as this can create practical and financial challenges for families. The school acknowledged these concerns and confirmed that it is mindful of the impact on parents/carers. It was explained that the art and French days were intended to be non-uniform days, rather than requiring families to purchase costumes. For the art day, pupils were encouraged to wear anything, whilst for French day it was hoped that most pupils would have something red, white or blue that they could wear.

**Hayes Primary School Parent Council
Notes of meeting held on Wednesday 15th July 2026
at 2pm at Hayes Primary School**

The school aims to spread events throughout the year wherever possible, although curriculum requirements can sometimes result in events being scheduled closer together.

- Timing of summer term event communications and ASC booking

The PC asked whether the key school event dates could be communicated before the After School Club booking window closes, to help families make childcare arrangements. It was explained that the school is developing an annual calendar of events which will be shared as early as possible to support parents/carers with planning

- Hot weather planning and communication

The PC discussed arrangements and communication during periods of extreme heat. Parents/carers had raised concerns about being informed of early collection arrangements and the challenges this can create for working families. The school acknowledged these concerns and explained that extreme weather decisions can be difficult to communicate far in advance due to changing forecasts. It was also clarified that children should not be informed of early collection arrangements before parents/carers have been notified.

Upcoming DfE guidance is expected to affect how schools respond to extreme heat, potentially removing the flexibility for early collection and requiring schools to remain fully open or closed.

The school is also reviewing the timing of school trips, with consideration being given to scheduling trips earlier in the academic year to reduce the risk of cancellations during periods of extreme temperatures.

- Maritime Trust merger and governance arrangements

The PC asked about governance arrangements from January 2027 and whether this would affect the future of the PC. It was confirmed that due to the success of the current PC model, there are no plans to make changes to the PC.

4. AOB

- The PC asked that teachers encourage children to drink water regularly throughout the school day, particularly during hot weather. Also, ensure the children are able to drink whenever required, at any time of the year.
- The PC asked that teachers remind children in KS1 to wear their hats when outside during hot weather.
- Meeting ended: 3.04pm
- Date of next meeting: Wednesday 16th September 2026 at 2pm.