

BELL BAXTER PARENT COUNCIL **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

What is the Parent Council?

The committee appointed by the parents of Bell Baxter High School to run matters on their behalf. We are presently a group of around 30 parents and one community member – from different communities within the catchment and with children of varying ages.

What are our aims/objectives?

- improve links between all parents and the school
- make sure that parents get the information they need and that the school gets feedback on parents' views
- discuss issues of interest to parents including school policies
- support the school's efforts both inside and outside of the classroom
- work with the school, Fife Council and the Scottish Government to ensure that pupils receive the best possible education.

What can the Parent Council do for me and my family?

Your input allows you to fully support your own child's education at Bell Baxter. You are consulted on school matters and involved in decisions which could affect your child.

How does the Parent Council interact with the school?

We have a good working relationship with the school. Our committee meets with the Rector Phil Black and key staff monthly. These are open meetings which any parent/carer can attend. We discuss any new developments within the school and across Scottish education. Issues from individual parents are not discussed, these are referred directly to the school.

What types of activities does the Parent Council undertake?

We are both reactive and proactive in our involvement.

We have been consulted on school policies such as bullying, school handbook and school uniform. We have been on interview panels for senior staff appointments and School Captain positions and are part of the annual Colours Awards committee. We also represent the school at Fife Council events and consultations.

Our own initiatives include fundraising, offering parent volunteers for Health Week and mock interviews for senior pupils and running a Careers Advice Register. We regularly attend Parent Council training events and last year organised an Internet Safety evening for parents. For several years, we have also sponsored the S3 Book Awards to encourage reading. In addition our fundraising has been used to provide school lockers, gym equipment and other school resources.

How can I get involved?

- Join our committee (forthcoming dates are listed on this site) - you do not have to enrol or be elected, you can come when you can and we will copy you in on minutes and other correspondence to keep you updated. You can join or leave the committee whenever you like. Or, come as an observer to keep yourself informed (but you can't vote on Council matters).
- Volunteer for a one-off specialist activity - you may have an area of expertise which you would like to offer as support to the school and its pupils. Are you a good fundraiser? Can you help with gardening or crafts at Health Week? Do you have good interviewing skills or offer careers advice? Let us know!.
- Fundraising – support us in our efforts including the 500 Club school lottery, the Easyfundraising shopper loyalty scheme, hamper raffles and the like.
- Give us feedback – even if committees are not your 'bag', we can't function without your opinions. You can talk to us at our table at any parents' evening, email us on bellbaxterhs.ParentCouncil@fife.gov.uk or contact the Parent Council Clerk Sylvia Docherty at the school on 01334 659459. In the meantime, keep visiting this website for regular updates.