

# STIRLING COUNCIL

**MINUTES** of the **MEETING** of the **PARENTAL APPEALS PANEL** held in the **BRUCE ROOM, VIEWFORTH, STIRLING** on **THURSDAY 7 JANUARY 2016** at **10.00 am**

**Present:**

Mrs Anita SMILEY (in the Chair)  
Mrs Amanda NAMEY                      Councillor John HENDRY

**In Attendance:**

Peter Farquhar, Principal Solicitor, Corporate Operations  
Claire Dunbar, Committee Officer, Corporate Operations (Clerk)

**The Panel resolved, that under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.**

**PA35    APPEAL AGAINST EXCLUSION**

The Panel had been asked to consider an appeal against exclusion from Dunblane Primary School.

Members of the Panel had before them

- (a) Statement of Rights/Procedures;
- (b) Parental Submission;
- (c) Education Authority Submission.

The Chair introduced the Members of the Panel and the parties to each other. The procedures to be followed were also outlined.

Elaine Murray (Quality Improvement Officer) and Sally Kennedy (Head Teacher of Dunblane Primary School) represented the Education Authority.

The Appellants were present.

Elaine Murray presented the case for the Education Authority and explained the background leading up to the exclusion.

The Panel and the Appellants were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Education Authority.

The Appellants presented their case, outlining the reasons why they were appealing against the decision to exclude their son from Dunblane Primary School.

The Panel and the Education Authority were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Appellants.

Both parties were then given the opportunity to sum up their cases. During these summations the Appellants submitted additional written material in support of their appeal, which they felt was relevant to points raised by the Education Authority.

With the agreement of the Chair, copies of this material were circulated to the Panel members and Education Authority representatives. There was then a short adjournment to allow the full consideration of these additional papers.

*The Panel adjourned at 10.45am and reconvened at 11.10am  
with the same parties present.*

The Head Teacher made some comments on the content of the additional material.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and asked the Appellants and the Education Authority representatives to withdraw from the meeting at this point in the proceedings to allow the Panel to consider the evidence put before it.

She confirmed that both parties would be notified of the Panel's decision in writing within 14 days.

### **Decision**

The Parental Appeals Panel, having carefully considered the evidence submitted, decided that the appeal was not upheld. The Panel unanimously confirmed the decision of the Education Authority to exclude the Appellants' son from Dunblane Primary School. The grounds for exclusion were that in all the circumstances his continued attendance at the school was likely to be seriously detrimental to order and discipline in the school or the educational wellbeing of the pupils there.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 11.45am

