

Parent Council Minutes
Tuesday 5th May 2026
6:00-7:15pm. Library (D Block)

Minutes

• **Apologies**

Megan Jarrett

Gavin Strickfuss

Louise Brixton

Kerry Gaulton

Camilla Barnardt

• **Minutes from last meeting**

- Approved.

- **Update on Birchwood's Mission Statement**

- Values are being addressed within Assemblies
- School branding and literature will be updated over the coming weeks
- Changes to 6th form Student Leadership Team – 2 Principal Students, 5 Assistant Principal Students – each Assistant has a Value, i.e. one for Respect, one for Aspiration
- Student Council – there will be a Committee for each Value by
- PSHE – this is redeveloping to have a more frank and honest approach – use of videos. Based around the Values.
- Visuals – replace the current school slogan with new Values and Motto – costings are currently being sought for this.

- **Enrichment Week**

- Trips taking place all at once at end of summer term is not viable.
- Increasing number of trips and activities throughout the academic year.
- Reward Trips are being received well.

- **Duke of Edinburgh**

- This will be offered to Students from Year 9 through to 6th Form. Students from Year 9 (September) will be able to complete Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards throughout the time at Birchwood.

• **New Government Mobile Phone Policy**

- DfE clarification – expectation of full ban within schools
- Options being explored;
 - No phones on site
 - Phone lockers in every form room with Students collecting at end of day.
 - Mobile phone pouches.
- Discussions around all options above
 - Phone lockers – used by TBSHS and Avanti – their timetable allows for this.
 - Mobile phone pouches – used by Leventhorpe and Hockerill – working well. Toilet breaks during lessons have reduced significantly. Yonder offers pouches – costs around £30,000. Discussions on fundraising, parental contributions.
- 6th Form will be expected to lead by example
- Policy for Staff will be updated.
- Medical exemptions will be in place (for diabetics etc)

- **Support for Parents**
 - What support would parents like from the Schools? Workshops? Drop in sessions?
 - BW would like to offer comprehensive experience to parents.
 - Guide or Talk for new parents to the school – FAN is working on a ‘day in the life at BW’
 - Personalised Learning Centre – a Guide on how to contact them
 - The Two Johns – Internet Safety talk
 - Drug parental talk
 - Online booklets for each year group
 - 6th Form parental talk to include University finances

- **AOB**
 - Homework Policy – changing the way homework is done
 - Satchel One not being renewed
 - Maths and English Tutoring packages being introduced

- **Date of Next Meeting – June 2026**

Parent Council Members – Spring 2026

Chair: Katie Horwood

	Parent 1	Parent 2	Parent 3	Parent 4
Year 7				
Year 8	Megan Jarrett	Lee Tibbey		
Year 9	Cheryl Barber	Camilla Barnardt	Anne Hummersone	Gavin Strickfuss
Year 10	Amanda Anderson	Hayley Hyatt	Lisa Rodmell	Anita Stannard
Year 11	Louise Brixton	Flora Klumpler	Kerry Gaulton	
Year 12	Louise Cutmore			
Year 13	Michelle Gowlett	Pam Harknett	Helene Petterson	