



Aithisg Coinneamh Choitcheann Bhliadhnail Comhairle nam Pàrant

Parent Council AGM report

February 2022

Introduction / Ro-ràdh

We are pleased to present to the Parent Forum this AGM report summarising Parent Council activities in 2021. As in 2020 COVID restrictions for the majority of the year significantly limited the potential for activity and development in some of the groups and this is reflected in the reports. The report covers:

- Parent Council meetings
- Class reps
- Finance report
- Small Sums Scheme
- Fundraising
- Events
- Acoustics
- GME Development
- Parent groups
- Outdoor learning space
- Sports
 - Active Schools
 - Football
- Feedback



Meetings / Coinneamhan

Parent Council Meetings

We had five meetings in 2021:

- 3rd February (AGM)
- 17th March
- 19th May
- 21st September
- 10th November

Planned meetings for 2022 (others TBC):

- 1st February (AGM)
- 16th March
- 9th May

Parent Council meetings took place exclusively on digital platforms due to COVID restrictions and attracted up to 80 people. Comments and questions from parents and carers could be added during the meeting using the chat function. In-person meetings have previously attracted between 15 and 25 people. The Chairs note that an online function for future meetings may be an important part of engagement and this was reflected in responses to the PC annual survey of parents.

Minutes from our meetings can be accessed on the Parent Council website:

<http://www.parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk/documents--sgrigraveobhainnean.html>.

Partway through the year, parents requested that the meeting day be changed for each meeting; to alternate Mondays and Wednesdays were agreed. The traditional shorter Friday morning follow up meetings were reinstated.

North East and South East Locality Meetings

The Parent Council has been active in cross-city engagement with other Parent Councils of Primary and Secondary schools, raising the school's profile, sharing information and engaging on a range of school issues. Through attendance at the North East and South East Locality meetings (4 times a year) and with attendance at the CCWP (Consultative Committee with Parents), the PC has continued to represent the interests of the school and parents on issues such as Parent Council access to Teams accounts, Extra-curricular activities - Active Schools and schooling in the face of COVID advice and mitigations.



Class reps / Riochdairean clas

The Parent Council coordinates the class reps. The purpose of the class rep is to act as an informal point of contact between parents and the classroom, parent council and school.

- This includes sharing information from the school and PC with parents and also passing parents' views back in return.
- It is a complementary role and does not replace more formal communication channels; full details of the role are available from the PC.

Thank you to all the parents who are class reps, who help support all the Parent Council initiatives and keep their classes informed and up to date.

Finance report for 2021 / Aithisg ionmhasail

Last year we had £13,168.47 in the PnC bank account with £3,900.23 belonging to the acoustics fund.

At the end of 2021 we had £17,813.70 in the bank with the same amount relating to the acoustics fund.

So £13,913.47 is available to the CnP.

But £3,424.82 is due to cover the cost of the Christmas cards.

We have an additional £93.48 in the Paypal account.

So £10,582.13 is available at the start of 2022.

<i>Income in 2021</i>		<i>(2021)</i>
Christmas cards	£1,595.52	(£936.02)
Lottery	£1,172.70	(£1,486.40)
Easy fundraising	£192.54	(£238.04)
Edinburgh Council	£697.60	(£691)
Donations	£807.03	(£258.23)

Expenditure

£489.21 to the school after the Christmas Fayre.

P1s jumpers (£197)

Part funding for Tetrapak bins (£772.81)

Flashcards (£189.60)



Lego League (£180) – hoping to be of use in the Spring term

We also paid out £1,303.90 to the SSS (Waterproof coats, National Geographic magazines, Minecraft, Gardening, James Beaton for translation re Gaelic STEM kit, Bird watching)

Expected expenditure

We will be providing SSS funding of at least £2,000 for 2022 (February).

Fundraising / Togail Airgid

It's been nearly 2 years since parents have been able to set foot on school grounds due to COVID restrictions. Public health rules continued to affect fundraising capacity at the school this year. In spite of this, some fundraising has happened.

Thank you to all those who worked in the face of continuing restrictions to raise money for the school:

Bec Phipps, Beckka Gould, Annabel Harrison and Team for the pre-loved uniform pop up that raised over £400 in August 2021.

Caroline Daye for organising the production of Christmas Cards raising £1,600 (December 2021)

Eleanor Ryan-Saha for organising the talent raffle in place of Feill Nollaig raising over £400

Other ways to support:

Easyfundraising is one of the easiest ways to make money for the school as you shop. We would encourage all parents to shop via their usual channels through the easyfundraising portal. In 2021, Easyfundraising generated £193 in funds. Log on at:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bunsgoiltaobhnairce/>

Families can choose to support the school by participating in the lottery. Tickets are £1 a week and the jackpot is £25,000. Winners can elect to keep their funds or donate them back to the school. For every ticket played, 76% goes to the school. In 2021 the lottery raised £1,172 for school funds. Find out more and sign up at:

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/bun-sgoil-taobh-na-p%C3%A0irce>

Some families have chosen to make direct donations to the school, usually via PayPal. These can be regular or one-off. In 2021 donations raised almost £400 for school funds. Families wishing to donate in this way can do so via the PayPal link:

<http://paypal.me/CnPnTnP>



The Parent Council collectively ensures funds are used to best meet the needs of the school and to enhance school life. Working in partnership with the school the best use of funds are determined, and suggestions are welcome from all parents as part of the parent forum. School funding priorities are identified and agreed at meetings of the School Funding Group; a collaboration between teachers, staff and parents.

Events / Tachartasan

The 5 main events that usually happen in the calendar year are:

- Fèill Samhraidh (May)
- Clas 1 Welcome Picnic (August)
- Film Night (August)
- Halloween Party (October)
- Fèill Nollaig (December)

The school events are a great way for families to get involved in the life of the school, to meet other parents and teachers, and to build a sense of community. The social impact of COVID on our community has been challenging and it has not been possible to come together in person in the school since March 2020.

The events are also the main source of the Parent Council's fundraising. Funds from the Fèill Samhraidh and Fèill Nollaig go directly to the school to pay for the extra-curricular activities and attract more families and raise more money year on year. COVID has had a significant impact and restricted the potential for conventional events fundraising. We boast a very creative and resilient parent body and lockdown saw the creation of an Events & Fundraising Team which undertook to deliver a socially distanced pop up pre-loved event in the park and Fèill Nollaig in the form of an online raffle.

Thank you to everyone who made the events happen this year. There is a fantastic team of people who offer their help, ideas and resources to make our events really special. Please do consider joining them in whatever capacity you can.

We would especially like to thank all the participants in the digital makers market and those who gifted things for all the raffles this year and the parents who came together to organise them.

The money raised by the PC events in 2020 has been spent on a wide range of activities and materials that support and enhance our children's education. One major area of expenditure included the purchase of milk carton recycling bins for classrooms.

If you'd like to help out in any way with events please get in touch with the chairs
chairs@parantantaobhnairce.org.uk



Acoustics / *Fuaimearrachd*

Throughout 2021 in dialogue with the Council, the PC Chairs have pressed for a commitment to improving the acoustics in the school building. An issue that dates back to the original refurbishment of the school.

The PC Chair had a meeting with CEC Officials in December 2020 and subsequently after consulting with the Headteacher submitted an Improvement Plan for Acoustics to the Council on 21 December 2020. The plan summarised the background/history, the main issues and proposed a timeline for work to be done on the four large spaces and consideration of other large classrooms. During 2021 the PC continued to make the case in different forums, with the Council, Councillors and in dialogue with other interested stakeholders including the Scottish Government.

As a result - the school and Council have successfully bid for funding through the Scottish Government to improve the acoustics of the school building. In order to prioritise those spaces with the most impact on learning and teaching, given current Covid protocols on mixing etc - a programme of improvements will commence with Sgoil Araich (provisionally February midterm) and extend through the classrooms of the school. A second phase should see the improvement of the four large rooms and transitional spaces. The PC is seeking further information on timelines. Thanks to all parents who have worked over the years to raise this issue.

There is also planned improvement work to the Taigh na Dorsair (Old Janitor's house) with a provisional completion date of August 2022 (although delays may be expected) to turn it into a Cròileagan/Early Years permanent space with additional space to be used flexibly and pedagogy-driven design embraced.

Gaelic Medium Education (GME) Development / *Leasachadh FtG*

Taobh na Pàirce Comhairle nam Pàrant/Parent Council represents and engages families in the life of the school. The national body that represents families in Gaelic Medium Education (GME) Comann nam Pàrant (CnP), has a regional group for the Lothians - Comann nam Pàrant dun Eideann. CnP leads the campaigning work to promote and develop GME in Edinburgh and the Lothians. The work between Taobh na Pàirce Comhairle nam Pàrant/Parent Council and Comann nam Pàrant, the City of Edinburgh Council and GME experts on the monitoring and delivery of the Gaelic Language Plan (GLP) through the Gaelic Implementation Group (GIG) continues.

GIG - established to ensure that the objectives of the City of Edinburgh Council's GLP are delivered with input from across the Council, last met on 2 November 2021. Funding for the Gaelic Development Officer within the Council has been extended for 12 months.



One of the main priorities of GIG and the GLP remains the creation of a new Secondary School for GME in the city. 2021 has certainly been a busy year in relation to secondary GME, with the refurbishment of the Darroch Annex and transition preparations for current S1s and S2s, an SNP Manifesto commitment for a central standalone GME secondary school and a number of meetings of the Education, Children and Families Committee, including the latest on 24 January 2022 decided to continue for further information and engagement around the options. The PC acting with CnP has been engaging throughout the year with parents on the Council's plans and with Council Officers and Councillors.

The sites currently put forward for consideration are:

Liberton High School

Castlebrae

(Uncertainties remain about availability and cost of the Royal Victoria Hospital Site)

Following discussions at the Education, Children and Families Committee meeting on 24 January 2022, the decision was taken by the Committee to approve a motion to allow for further discussion between the Council and the GME community and for the Council to provide further additional information on the current sites and any other potential sites, prior to the next Committee meeting scheduled to take place 1 March 2022. This was a change from the proposed motion to proceed to statutory consultation on Liberton. The PC in correspondence with Councillors and working as part of CnP contributed to the written and verbal deputations, which along with the volume of parental correspondence it would appear convinced councillors to seek more time and answers in order to produce a plan for secondary GME that parents and carers can support.

There remain questions for parents around the creation of the GME High School including; the location, transitions, curriculum offer and breadth, staff recruitment and retention, the proposed timescales and more.

The PC continues to encourage as many parents as possible to engage with this process, input from GME families is critical. Families can sign up to the CnP mailing list here:

<https://cnpduneideannblog.wordpress.com/contact/>

Parent groups / Buidhnean Parantan

There are a number of parent groups working on behalf of the parents to support the school, the pupils and their families. Activity across the parent groups has been quieter this year due to COVID.

If any of these groups are of interest to you, if you just want to keep up on developments, join! You'll find them on the homepage in Classlist.



They'll be happy to hear from you and you can keep up to date on the things that interest you. Have an idea for a group of your own? Bus Buddies in East Lothian? Gaelic conversation? Baking? Feel free to set one up.

Active Travel & Road Safety Group
Additional Support for Learning (ASL) & Additional Support Needs (ASN) Group
Anti-Bullying, Anti-Racism and Equalities Group
Eco Group
Events and Fundraising Group
Lost Property Group
Mental Health & Well-being Group
Playground Gardening group
Wraparound Group (and afterschool care)

Outdoor learning space group / *Buidheann raon-cluiche*

In this school year, the Parent Council has worked to support the school to progress playground improvement work - given the pressures on the school staff team. Attempts to move forward with this work have been undertaken by teachers over the years, and we look to build on some of the previous work.

The PC explored funding a dedicated project manager and in addition, spoke with a landscape architect firm that work on school builds with Edinburgh Council. The school leadership has picked up the most recent work on this and will undertake a consultation with staff and pupils to check the priorities previously identified are current - and then start the formal stage process with the Council to move the work forward.

COVID means things are moving slowly, but they are moving and the Chairs will pass forward information as it comes in.

The PC would like to thank the Playground and Gardening Group for their continued support, patience and for all they have done and continue to do.

Sports / *Sports*

Active Schools

Sports Scotland, the body responsible for sport in schools, has implemented a policy change to the Active Schools Program with the intention of poverty proofing the school day.

The PC recognises and supports the aim of the policy to make opportunities for wider achievement accessible for all. However, it is clear that this objective has been undermined by



fundamental flaws in implementation, including; the failure to carry out stakeholder consultation in advance, the absence of an equality impact assessment, the lack of clarity and detail concerning administration and funding, and the lack of notice of the changes to the schools or to families. Despite continued advocacy for action at the Consultative Committee with Parents and through motions at the Education, Children and Families Committee we consider that the parent voice remains unheard.

The PC submitted a joint deputation with other PC's highlighting the issues, seeking resolution and will continue to engage with this process and to ensure the best possible outcome is reached for families across Edinburgh.

Football / Ball coise

The vision or aim of the parent volunteer-run Ball Coise groups is to provide all of the school children who attend Taobh na Pàirce with the opportunity to develop their football skills in a relaxed fun setting with their classmates. We want to encourage and support physical development in a non-competitive way as the children gain confidence playing, learning and interacting with their peers outside of the classroom.

As the children get older, reaching C4 with the girl's teams and C6 / C7 with the boy's teams there are opportunities to play representing the school in primary school leagues on Saturday mornings.

We are seeking to build a strong connection to the school through football and provide the children with an outlet that helps with this on Saturday mornings throughout term time.

The coaching is run by PVG-certified parent volunteers. We are always looking to add to our coaching team - with numbers growing we need to add more parents to our ranks. If you are interested please let us know and we can advise on getting PVG certified via the school.

TnP Teine

TnP Teine (the c4/5 and c6/7 girls football teams) have been having a great season so far. The c4/5's are undefeated! The c5/6 team are playing really well too with mostly victories and ties so far. Both teams have 9 players and have a great team spirit and games start again on 5 February. More players are welcome for both teams, no experience needed, just enthusiasm.

TnP Rionnagan

Since the training and games resumed in August, we have had more than 110 girls and boys from across all class groups participate, with regular weekly attendance for games and training averaging between 70 - 80 children.



TnP Sgeirean

The C7 boys (and occasionally C6) are currently taking part in the Edinburgh primary school league, with games each Saturday morning.

At present there is an interest amongst the boys (P6 - P4) in playing more games representing the school, so we are looking into options for friendly games with other schools over the next few months. However, to really fulfill this next year we need more coach and parent volunteers to help run games and training on Saturday mornings.

How to get more information

There is a weekly email with details of the plans for each Saturday - you can sign up here:

<https://gaelic-education.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9db9997f05e2731f69081512d&id=8dcfd420fc&e=cbaa0f1a81> If interested or if you have any questions, please email: tnp.ball.coise@gmail.com.

We are also starting to use Classlist - please see the group "TnP Ball-coise" - which will become more important as the weather deteriorates and we have to issue last minute updates on whether coaching can go ahead!



Tnp Teine



Feedback / *Fios-air-ais*

The PC issued a parent survey in January 2022 in advance of the AGM, 67 responses were received from parents and carers with children across all years from Sgoil Araich to C7 (Appendix at the end includes additional tables). Thanks to those who took the time to respond, your feedback is very helpful to us as we look to enhance the reach and impact of the Parent Council and its support of the school.

The Parent Council or CnP?

Taobh na Pàirce Comhairle nam Pàrant/The Parent Council (PC) represents and engages families in the life of the school. The aims of the Parent Council, as outlined in the constitution include in particular:

- a. supporting and promoting the provision of Gaelic medium education and Gaelic culture, both in the school and in the wider community.
- b. promoting the maintenance of a welcoming school environment which is inclusive and promotes equality and diversity.
- c. engaging in activities to support and advance the education and well-being of pupils attending the school;
- d. working to ensure close co-operation and effective communication between parents, teachers, non-teaching staff, pupils and the wider community;
- e. consulting with and representing the views of the Parent Forum on issues of education provision and on the well-being of the school community.

The national body that represents families in Gaelic Medium Education (GME) is Comann nam Pàrant (CnP) for ages 3-18 - campaigning and advocating for GME. CnP has a regional group for the [Lothians - Comann nam Pàrant dun Eideann](#). The PC and CnP work together to ensure that the views of the families at TnP and across the Lothians are well represented in GME matters with the Council and others. We endeavour to work collectively to avoid duplication, providing a single campaigning message where appropriate.

PC Website

The Parent Council Website has information about what the PC is for, the work it does and how to get involved (we are always keen to hear from parents willing to volunteer). Here we publicise agendas of Parent Council meetings and the minutes of those meetings. The FAQ's page is handy: <https://tnpparentcouncil.org.uk/>

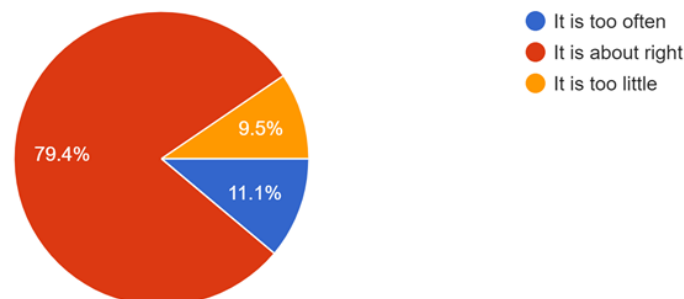
PC Communications

Given the increasing number of families joining the TnP community and the unique size and spread of the TnP catchment, the PC was keen to investigate how we might better connect our community using digital platforms and introduced Classlist in 2021.

It works quite like Facebook (but it's not Facebook) and is available as an app or desktop version. The desktop version can be easier to navigate if you have a lot of typing to do or you're creating a community event. A good percentage of parents were aware of the primary routes that the PC uses to communicate including Classlist (89.2%) and Parentmail (90.8%).

How do you feel about how often the Parent Council communicates with you?

63 responses



79.4% of respondents to the survey indicated that the volume of communication from the Parent Council was about right. While we acknowledge we can always look to improve, some parents commented on different approaches to flag or streamline the volume, we feel classlist enables targeting of communications more effectively, is more straightforward to manage and administrate and enables greater connectivity between class and interest groups. We will investigate new ways to make best use of it.

You can customise the notifications Classlist sends you very effectively, but we like to keep the **Whole School** feed as clear as possible to avoid too many unnecessary notifications, so it's best to ask questions of your class and Class Rep first, open out to the year group if necessary and only to the whole school if the question remains unanswered. That helps keep the whole school feed focused on whole school issues.

If your conversation could be a long-running or niche one, a Classlist **group** might be the way to go. "Bus Buddies in..." "Gaelic Conversation Club..." for example. Create a group, then post to the whole school via your rep or the Chairs to let others know that it's there and what it's for; interested parents will find you.

For families who bus in school events may be the only time they meet others in person. You can search Classlist using the name of a pupil or a parent and the **Parents** tab makes it easy to put faces to the names of your child's friends and their family. There is also a map function.

The PC shares meeting details and community events through the **events** section; which will also allow you to create private events for birthday parties etc.

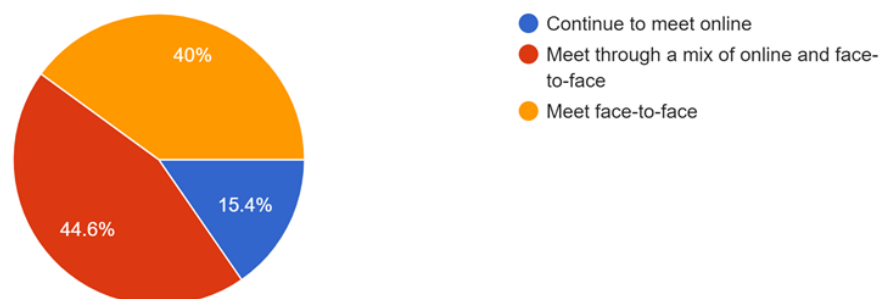
The **Marketplace** is a space where you can list items for sale or donation. You can choose whether to donate the proceeds to the school or to keep them. There is a place for **lost and found** on the Marketplace. Hit 'List' and Lost/Found will appear, you can list items there.

Classlist has a comprehensive help centre: <https://help.classlist.com/hc/en-us>

Meetings

Parents expressed a preference to meet when public health guidance permits through a mix of online and face to face and an almost equal proportion expressed a preference for face to face. It is likely we will combine a mix of on-line meetings, face to face events and gatherings in future.

In line with government restrictions we have been unable to run our regular in-person events such as the P1 picnic, Cinema night, Halloween night an...allows for in person meeting, would you prefer to:
65 responses



The Parent Council uses a Facebook Page where all are invited to share community news and events for your wider family, the wider community and the Gaelic diaspora:

<https://www.facebook.com/PCTnP> We need your help to make it work. The 4 people on the committee can not a community forge alone! Get searching and get sharing.

Getting Involved

We had an encouraging indication of 25 people willing to support the Parent Council through either their skills, participation in Classlist groups or joining the Committee - we will follow up this interest in the coming weeks.

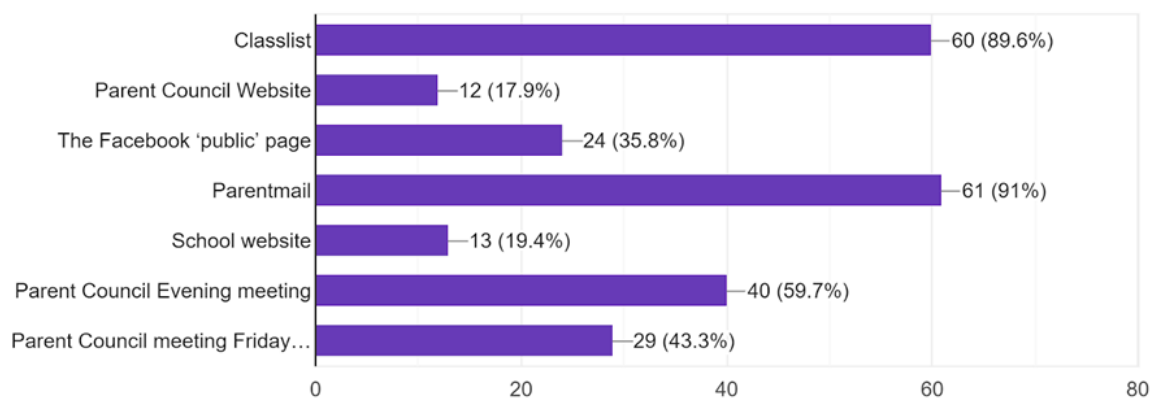
Any feedback on the content of this report is welcome at the AGM or via email to the Parent Council: chairs@parantantaobhnapairce.org.uk

Mòran taing,

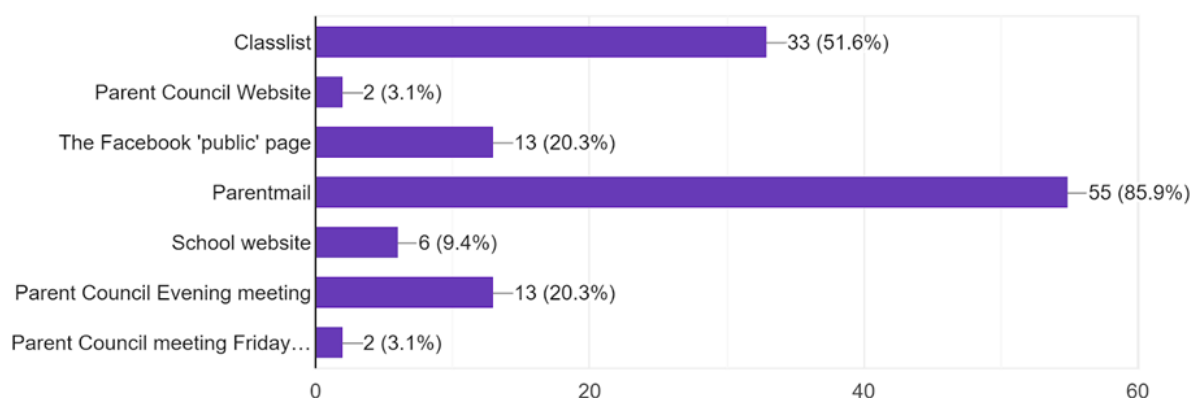
Comhairle nam Pàrant Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce

Appendix 1 Additional Survey Response Tables

Which of the following ways that the Parent Council keeps in touch with parents are you aware of?
67 responses



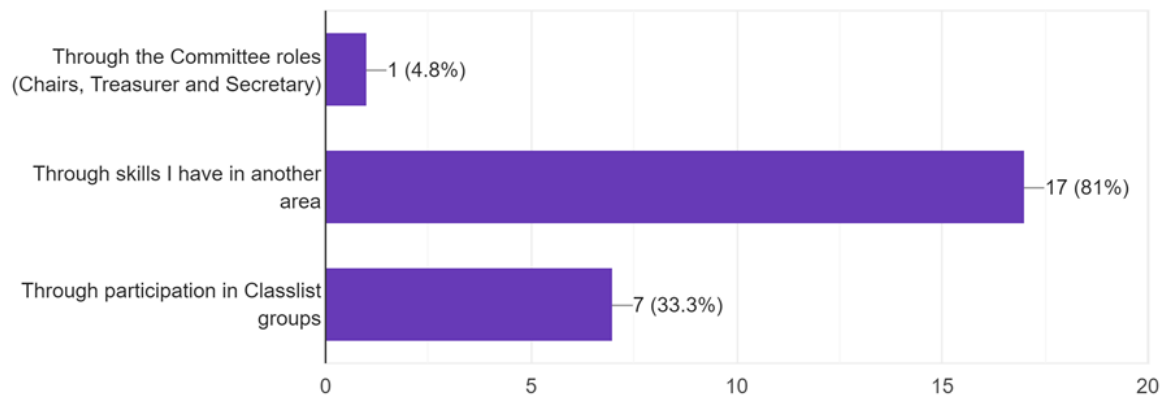
And which of these do you find most useful/prefer to use? (choose up to 3)
64 responses





The Parent Council is always looking for volunteers across a range of roles. Would you be interested in getting involved

21 responses



What year is your child/are your children in? This information will help us analyse the responses.

63 responses

