

St Joseph's School

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

1/10/2024

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendance: Donna Westbrook (Chair), Andrew Westbrook (Vice Chair), Mandy Whorlow (Headteacher), Martina Lisi, Natalie Lisi, Diana Hamilton, Lianne Brown, Tammie Hilferty, Heather Corrigan.

Apologies: Kris (Krzysztof Pawlicki) and Cllr Willie Scobie.

2. Minutes from the last Meeting

The minutes from the last meeting were accepted and recorded as a true record.

3. School Improvement Plan (SIP) & Priorities/Updates

Ms Whorlow shared the SIP with parents and provided information on the West Rhins Assessment Data Figures alongside explaining the Achievement and Attainment tables. Meta (Skills for Life) was also discussed and how hard the partnership has worked to create our shared values and aims.

The upcoming residential to Barcaple was discussed. The PC have agreed to contribute financially to each child and Ms Whorlow was successful in getting a reduced cost plus a grant to help with the travel costs. Parents were informed that if any families were experiencing hardship to please see the PC or school. Any concerns would be dealt with discreetly and confidentially.

How to best communicate with parents was also discussed. Parents felt that Facebook would be the best option going forward. MS Whorlow will investigate this.

Ms Whorlow also updated parents with details of the safety work that the Tree Surgeon was undertaking in the corner of the school grounds, between the school and Belmont Care Home. This is to remove and cut back trees so that a secure fence can be erected at the cost of Belmont Care Home. It was agreed that this would hopefully help the vandalism that we are currently experiencing within the school grounds.

PVG and Data forms were also highlighted by Ms Whorlow for parents to complete, update and provide evidence for, for identity purposes.

Breakfast Club and what we are able to offer the children was also discussed as there are new guidelines with regards to sugar quantities in cereals and spreads etc. Ms Whorlow shared these guidelines with parents and provided examples. Ms Whorlow also shared that she is aware of the support that Greggs and Argos can provide to breakfast and is looking into this.

Parents also asked for food colouring not to be used in baking activities as some felt that their children were more disruptive after using and eating it. It was agreed by all that this was a clever idea going forward.

The possible changes to school times were also discussed in depth with all parent's present expressing their concerns. It was agreed that parents at St Jospeh's did not support the proposed changes to school times and Donna Westbrook would share this information with DNG Council. DW had also spoken to parents who were unable to attend tonight's meeting, and their views reflected those that were present. Some parents provided quotes for Donna to share with their feedback. The difficulties and positives with providing after school clubs if school times were to change, were also discussed..

4. Parent Council Updates

Details of Halloween and Christmas events were shared with parents, i.e.: a free Halloween party organised by Portpatrick Community Development Trust (PCDT) for the West Rhin's Partnership in Portpatrick Village Hall, plus lunch with Santa on 1st December but this would need to be a paid event.

Please watch out for further details on the blog and Facebook.

5. AOCB

No other business was discussed.

6. Date of AGM

Wednesday 6th November 2024.