

## St Joseph's Academy Parent Council meeting

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018

### Sederunt / Apologies

<b>Parents</b>	
Jim Campbell (Chair)	
Julie Batchelor	
Sharon Christie	
Lesley Cuthbertson (Treasurer)	apology
Gavin Duffy	
Karen Garland	
Mairi Gribben	
Shirley Harkness	
Jackie Livingstone	
Kate McLean	
Fiona Rosa	
Debbie Rye	
Dougie Thomson	apology
<b>Staff</b>	
Joseph Kane (HT)	
Andrew Boyle (DHT)	
<b>Councillors</b>	
Fiona Campbell	
Maureen McKay	

Minutes: S Harkness

### Parent Council Business

#### Welcome and Opening Prayer:

Jim Campbell welcomed everyone and led the opening prayer.

#### Minutes of previous meeting:

Accurate.

#### Matters arising:

- Signatories (standing item): J. Kane would welcome the chance to become a signatory.

**Action: JC to speak to LC**

- Barnardo's New Horizon - same service; plan is to invite Lauren from Barnardo's to a future PC meeting to outline their services. **JK to action**
- Mental Health Support / Additional Support Needs (ASN)

J. Kane delivered a presentation (powerpoint) and will forward contents of same to PC.

Promoting positive mental health is a priority for St Joseph's:

- i) Code of Conduct has been agreed
- ii) Catholic Ethos
- iii) Rights Respecting School (A. Boyle spoke about this)
  - school has been awarded Silver status
  - the Charter can be forwarded to the PC
- iv) Curriculum e.g. P.E. / R.E. / H.E. / Personal Support
- v) SafeSpot & SafeSpace
  - some S6 pupils have been trained e.g. to pass on concerns to staff and to offer peer support
  - SafeSpace near Pupil Support base; pupils have been advised of its location
  - SLT/pastoral staff welcome pupils first thing in the morning at the door – thereby providing immediate access to staff/early intervention, should a pupil require it
  - K. Garland queried if a staff member is there for ASN pupils e.g. wheelchair-bound pupil - and was assured the SLT/pastoral staff are sited only a metre away
  - some pupils are using the Breakfast Club (8.25am at the latest) for a 'softer' start – can often enable pupils to take advantage of a quieter time, to take the time needed to settle into the school day
- vi) Mental Health First Aid Kits (e.g. ear defenders):
  - Mrs. Kirkwood, school librarian, leads on this initiative; kits are situated in the library; **could they be placed in Nurture room as well?**  
**Action: J. Kane will liaise with Mrs. Kirkwood re. the best way forward**
  - more staff trained in St Joseph's than in any other E.A. establishment
  - J. Batchelor suggested this could be included in school literature
- vii) 'Bee Kind' is a pupil-led anti-bullying initiative that ties in with Safespace and allows pupils to take a leadership role; all pupils know about this
- viii) General
- ix) Additional support e.g. school nurse; 'time out' passes etc.

The school has analysed pastoral referrals from between August – October holiday week; peer issues and home life appear to be the most significant factors for our young people; this should help steer the school's procedures/policies moving forward.

Tree of Knowledge and pupil surveys are on-going.

Following a query about support for pupils on buses, J. Kane reminded us that parents have responsibility for their child while travelling to and from school.

K. Garland asked if government funding could be forthcoming re. Mental Health; she will try to get further information on how to access this for St. Joseph's. **Action: KG**

vix) Targeted Interventions

e.g. Barnardo's New Horizon Project  
Bethany Trust Counselling = UpStream (PEF funding)  
CAMHS Referral  
'Request for Assistance'  
Safe Plans created

### School Report

Delivered by J. Kane (attached)

A Boyle, DHT, spoke about the launch of Childcare with Outdoor Learning:

- aimed at S3 pupils
- built-in work experience
- unique, as only course like it currently running in E.A.
- SVQ award in Childcare
- offers a pathway to a college course in S4
- fosters college partnerships

He also spoke about Parental Engagement sessions:

- 8 pupils; 7 week programme
- May 2019: primary 7 > S1 (transition) to take part in similar programme
- targeted programme i.e. not to be 'opened-up / opt-in', certainly at the moment

Curriculum Consultation:

- suggestion that the lowest 20% attaining in different subjects are not being fully served by the existing curriculum model
- concern expressed by PC members re. literacy levels in St Joseph's; **to be discussed more fully by the PC at a future date.**

PEF Funding:

- Maths bid discussed: **calculators approved; coloured pencils not approved**
- Technology/Computing bid discussed and **carried**
- DofE bid discussed and **carried**  
J Livingstone raised the question of pupils choosing to do DofE because there's nothing more suitable in column.

IPADs update provided by J Kane:

- lots are in for repair at any given time and some have still to be returned by former pupils, which is impacting the S1 pupils.

### **Treasurer's Report**

None

### **Correspondence**

None

### **AOCB**

- J. Batchelor raised the issue of the reserve P.E. kit (for pupils who forget their kit) only being suitable for boys; A. Boyle assured the PC that Mr Howson, PT P.E., has very recently ordered kit for the girls.
- F. Rosa queried late texts from the school office (midday approx.) informing parents of their child's absence; several members of the PC have had similar experiences – usually when the pupil is in school, but perhaps on a trip. These instances appear to be oversights.
- S Harkness asked, due to the ongoing wait for iPads, if homework diaries could be issued in the interim. **Action: J Kane to look into this.**
- G. Duffy asked about Afterschool Club attendance/safety; his daughter was due to leave school at 4.30pm – a taxi had been booked but did not turn up; she had no way of regaining access to the school building. **Action: school to continue to liaise with transport companies & pupils could be reminded to use leisure centre button, as well as the staff member running the club ensuring all pupils in attendance are safely on their way home – J Kane to advise staff.**

**Closing prayer:** Jim Campbell led the closing prayer.

### **Date of next meeting:**

Monday 21st January 2019

### **Other forthcoming meetings for 2019:**

Monday 11 March

Monday 29 April

Monday 10 June