

St Joseph's Academy Parent Council
Minutes of Meeting 24th August 2020

Attendance

Parents	
Jim Campbell (Chair)	
Julie Batchelor	Apology
Anne Queen	
Mairi Gribben	Apology
Shirley Harkness	
Jackie Livingstone	
Kate McLean	
Douglas Thomson	
Fiona Rosa	Apology
Grace Walker	
Paul McLaughlin	Apology
Amanda Bussam Kennedy	
Gavin Duffy	
Francis McCann	
Deborah Boyd	
Staff	
Joseph Kane (HT)	
Donna Shearer	
Councillors	
Maureen McKay	Apology

Meeting conducted via Zoom call, as a result there are limitations to the detail of what can be discussed, particularly relating to personal data relating to staff, pupils, parents & council officials.

Parent Council Business

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Jim Campbell welcomed everyone, particularly Amanda who is joining for the first time.

Jim led the opening prayer.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes from 15th June and 22nd June passed as accurate.

Head Teacher Report

Mr Kane took us all through the HT report (see attached Appendix A)

SQA Certification

Mr Kane expressed his delight that teacher estimates had been accepted.

Mr Kane thanked Jim, the Parent Council and elected members for their support during the period between initial SQA results and the subsequent amended results.

The Stats from this year's results will be shared from the Insight report at the next meeting.

H&S

Risk assessments are available to view on line via the school website.

14 different hand sanitizer stations throughout the school.

Difficult to get all 600 pupils using these stations. As a result, all classrooms have hand sanitizer bottles and children need to use them upon entering the classroom.

No official directive on the use of face masks at present.

Small stock of face masks for staff use is available. Should they become mandatory then further stock will be required.

Mr Kane reinforced the Parental Responsibility around COVID19 symptoms, and the required actions should a child develop symptoms.

Question

Are teaching staff allowed to take a pupil's temperature?

Answer

No.

Question

Has it been necessary for the school to call a parent to pick up a pupil due to suspected symptoms?

Answer

Yes. However, no positive tests have been notified as a result.

No guarantee on the provision of blended learning for children unable to attend school. Allocation of staff time such that there is very little free time available.

SQA Courses 2020/2021

SQA have submitted a technical consultation to teachers regarding potential alterations to assessment standards. Consultation at subject level.

No formal plans issued by the SQA at present.

No further info on dates of SQA diet 2020/21.

Teachers advising, they have lost about 4 weeks of teaching due to COVID. Given the time available this year, they could just about deliver the course in the time available.

Lunch & Break

Staggered lunch time is working well.

Parents to encourage pupils to make way to Period 3 well before the 10.45 start time.

Litter issue emerging. Parents to reinforce message re use of bins.

There are 100 new lockers on site awaiting installation. School in talks with Mitie to progress same.

Uniform – Mr Kane relatively happy with the level of school uniform being worn. Blazers being the exception.

School lunch pre-order system has proved challenging. No. of pupils forgotten login details. Video available on school website outlining the ordering process.

Thanks to Miss Quigley for her efforts in relation to getting every pupil registered.

Difficulty with pupils unable to read or don't understand certain meals on offer.

Glow

Glow intend to reset all pupil and staff passwords soon. This will result in staff taking time out to ensure all pupils are registered and able to access the system.

School I-pads being phased out. Therefore, new S1 pupils will not receive an I-pad. Due to local authority budget constraints.

Parents encouraged to return promptly the annual data check, EV5 forms and photography permission forms.

SfL/ ASN

All annual reviews will be undertaken.

Should an urgent intervention be required, please contact Mrs Hoy.

Question

Shouldn't Dyslexia tests be conducted, with issues highlighted, at Primary School stage?

Answer

Yes, they should. However, St Joseph's conduct the tests for all pupils just in case anyone slips through the net.

Due to COVID restrictions some College courses will be delivered on-line only. Further details to follow.

This provides a logistical challenge for the school to support pupils who can't attend college and shall remain on campus. Insufficient staff or space available to accommodate the pupils. Further clarification on what can happen will be issued in due course.

Advanced Highers

Due to COVID restrictions, pupils are not permitted to attend more than 1 establishment. Before COVID pupils were attending other schools in the area for certain AH and pupils from other schools were attending St Joseph's.

Local Authority supporting the recruitment of a part time Science teacher, thus allowing St Joseph's to deliver AH Chemistry and AH Biology. AH Physics already being delivered at the school.

Question

Are you confident you can recruit a Science teacher as this has been an issue in the past?

Answer

Quietly confident.

Due to the working time agreement, it's not possible to arrange Parents evenings prior to November this year. Further updates will be provided.

Staff

Music (1-year temporary post) – Mrs Lamont

Acting PT Social Subjects - Miss Devanney (to cover Mrs Cunningham's maternity leave from October)

Acting PT Pastoral Care – Mrs A Kelly (to cover Mrs Marshall's maternity leave from October)

Live vacancies;

Two hub support worker posts (PEF) - Interviews scheduled for w/b 31st August

One Classroom Assistant Vacancy (PEF) - Interview dates TBC

Modern Languages (to cover Mrs Kelly) - Attracted no applicants within EAC or nationally, Back out to national advert

In addition, we have an allocation of 2.1FTE staff beyond our FTE allocation. 1.5FTE are staff who will remain with us this session but work in departments where a surplus had been declared. An additional 0.6FTE is out to advert in Science to help facilitate Advanced Higher provision.

Treasurer's Report

No change since last meeting.

Correspondence

Email from Councillor McKay highlighting the on-line service for the free provision of sanitary products for females.

School aware of the provision and have shared as necessary.

AOCB

Parent highlighted issue with Taxi Driver (school transport) not wearing a face mask.

Mr Kane has asked that this be brought to his attention via an e-mail.

Parent highlighted issue with School transport turning up extremely early resulting in pupils being on school grounds before 8.20am, sometimes before 8.15.

Again, Mr Kane has requested this be brought to his attention via e-mail.

Date of Next Meeting;

28th September 2020. This will also be the AGM and Parent Forum.

Need to get the message out to the wider Parent Forum, including new S1 parents.

Dates for the meetings throughout the remainder of 2020/21 to be agreed at the meeting on the 28th September.

Closing Prayer

JC led the closing prayer.