



FIDELIS · JUSTUS · PRUDENS

SAINT JOSEPH'S ACADEMY – PARENT COUNCIL REPORT

OCTOBER 2021

Parent Councils:

Scottish Government guidance indicates that Parent Councils should:

- Support the school in its work with pupils
- Represent the views of parents and carers
- Encourage links between the school, parents and carers, pupils, pre-school groups and the wider community
- be flexible, to ensure they can effectively represent their own school community and interests

St Joseph's Academy Parent Council:

St. Joseph's Academy works in partnership with the staff and in particular the Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team to represent the views of the wider '**Parent Forum**'. The **Parent Forum** consists of all parents / carers of pupils at St Joseph's Academy.

Our Parent Council is;

- made up of a number of parents / carers of pupils at St Joseph's Academy. Maximum membership should be 15 parents and ideally there should be representation from each year group. This last year, I believe that we had full representation but each year we need new S1 parents to consider joining our numbers.
- Our purpose is to meet and share ideas / feedback to the school on any particular point(s) of interest / concern e.g. staffing in subjects, subject offer, homework, reporting, extra-curricular activity OR some of the 'new' normal situations we've ALL had to adapt to such as changes in assessment models, online support for young people or public consultations affecting the very building in which our young people are educated.
- Our Parent Council gives parents / carers a voice and enables them to contribute to school decision making processes
- Through consultation with parents / carers, our Parent Council represents the views of the wider Parent Forum to advise School Leadership Team of parents' views.
- At St. Joseph's Academy the working relationship between the Parent Council and the School Leadership Team is one based on a genuine partnership approach. Our Parent Council operates as a 'Critical Friend'.

The HT is not a member of the Parent Council, but has a right to attend Parent Council Meetings. We welcome and appreciate that our HT has been ever-present at our Parent Council Meetings over the last year. The HT has also regularly been accompanied by other members of the SMT at Saint Joseph's who come along to offer updates in their specific remit areas. This has been both positive and appreciated.

Activities of Saint Joseph's Academy Parent Council 20/21:

- Pupil Leadership Team election support.
- Welcomed the Pupil Leadership Team to Parent Council Meetings to share their priorities and to offer support.
- Actively participated in the Willowbank School Consultation process working closely with WB School PC, attending public meetings and liaising with EAC Senior Managers regarding ongoing process. Summary report currently with Education Scotland for comment. LMG confirmed this week further meeting with Ed Scot colleagues. Will give a more accurate assessment of when Ed Scot comment can be expected.
- Continuity of Office bearers beyond usual 2-year rotation.
- Retained invaluable experience of previous Chair, Jim Campbell as Secretary (1 year).
- Continued service of Mhairi Gribben as Treasurer.
- Several PC members have participated in SQA Consultation sessions online – Alternate Assessment processes
- Parents have continued to show a strong presence at PC meetings online throughout pandemic with around 10/12 parent members present at each meeting across the past year. So thank you to all for that.
- General support for teaching staff (switching to and from remote learning models at short notice). Not been overly critical despite far from ideal reporting conditions.
- Ongoing COVID-19 response – Home learning, support for young people at home.
- Messages of encouragement, support and congratulations for online awards ceremonies. We would of course rather be there in person to support but we do what we can within the restrictions.
- Parent Council Steering group involvement and sharing of information across the Parent Forum from both the steering group and the NPFS.
- *(Sought clarity on supported study provision - lunchtimes)*
- *(Improvement Plan & PEF spending a "continuation of last year")*