

St Ninian's Parent Council



14th September 2016

Dear Parent / Carer,

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSIONS AND THE TRANSFER OF PUPILS FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY IN RESPECT OF ALL EAST RENFREWSHIRE ROMAN CATHOLIC AND NON-DENOMINATIONAL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 2017

You should have by now have received East Renfrewshire Council's summary of the above Consultation document. The proposals contained with the consultation propose a new set of criteria for entry into all schools in the local authority (except Calderwood Lodge) and will undoubtedly affect St Ninian's High School. The full consultation document can be found at the following website:- <http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/article/8125/School-admissions-consultation>.

St Ninian's High School was established in 1988 to serve the Catholic community of Eastwood and has always been a school which has been open to all, has welcomed all and has valued the contribution made by all its pupils. The school has placed the Catholic Faith at the heart of its ethos and as a result has achieved outstanding success in raising attainment and wider achievement levels throughout all areas of curricular and non-curricular activities. This approach has been promoted by the school staff, embraced by its pupils and their parents and is fully supported by the Parent Council.

For a number of years the Parent Council has been concerned with both current and projected capacity at the school as its popularity has grown and the retention rates of pupils in the senior school has increased. The Parent Council has engaged with the Catholic Church and East Renfrewshire Council to find a solution to this based on the following: -

- That the school should remain open to all
- That in the event of over-subscription to the school, priority be given to members of the Catholic community for whom the school was established
- That any pupils currently with a first right of access to St Ninian's retain this right
- That sufficient resources be put in place to address to handle the pupils currently in the school and those already with a right to attend.

The Parent Council is therefore pleased that Director of Education has brought forward papers to the Education Committee which identifies the capacity issues and proposes a

solution which addresses these. The proposals contain a number of provisions that satisfy the requirements that the Parent Council set out and provides a long term solution. After careful consideration of the proposals the members of the Parent Council are unanimously minded to support these proposals and to recommend them to the Parent Forum. The Parent Forum is the group consisting of all parents and carers of children at the school.

The Parent Council would like to hear your views on these proposals. You can do this by either responding directly to the Parent Council by letter posted or handed into the school, by e-mail to stninianshparentcouncil@gmail.com or by attending a meeting of the Parent Forum. This meeting will be held in the school at 7pm on Thursday 22nd September 2016.

We would also remind you that it is also very important that you make your voice heard by providing individual responses to this consultation and we strongly encourage you to respond to East Renfrewshire Council by the closing date of 10th October. Details on how to do this are given in the consultation document.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Ward".

Michael E. Ward
Chair

For and on behalf of St. Ninian's High School Parent Council