

# St Ninian's Parent Council



16<sup>th</sup> December 2016

To: Members of the Education Committee  
East Renfrewshire Council

Dear Sir / Madam,

## **Report on the Consultation in Relation to the Proposed Changes to Admission & Placing Request Arrangements**

On behalf of the Parent Council of St Ninian's High School, I would like to make the following representations on the above Report by the Director of Education. We understand that the Education Committee will be meeting on 20th December 2016 to consider this report.

In our response to the Consultation we welcomed the proposals and we are pleased that the outcome of the process has been for the Director of Education to recommend approval of the proposals. As a Parent Council we support this decision and look forward to working with the Director and her staff to ensure a smooth implementation.

We are however concerned on some of the comments made within the Director's report, in particular:-

- In Paragraph 62 the report states that our Parent Council is "seeking best value for the transitional accommodation measures." Our actual point was that that best value should be sought from the budget made available for the transition period and that innovative proposals be considered which would give a lasting benefit to the school (see note 1 below)
- In Paragraph 92 the Director notes that "the Council has invested significantly in the physical environment of St Ninian's High School." Whilst we acknowledge that there have been investments into St Ninian's High School, these were a number of years ago, and the most recent of these investments

were reactive to ensure that the physical capacity of the school caught up with the increase in school roll at the school. The last such major investment in capacity was over 7 years ago and since that time the school role has increased to over 1,800 this year (from 1,762 in 2009 which included the “exceptional” intake year 2009-2015). We are already concerned with the capacity at St. Ninian’s High School and have raised these on several occasions including Parent Council meetings, cluster meetings and meetings with the Director and her staff. ERC’s own website states that the planned capacity of the school is 1,704 which means that the school is now operating at more than 5% over capacity and this is unlikely to reduce in the short and medium terms. We would ask the Council to consider investment in the existing infrastructure of St Ninian’s High School to ensure that it continues to meet the aspirations its parents and the curriculum that the school delivers.

We do however welcome the Director’s inclusion in Paragraph 63 of our point that should these measures fail to address the capacity issues at St Ninian’s then consideration should be given to the creation of a new Roman Catholic Secondary. There have been several difficult consultations in relation to admissions to the school and it seems obvious that Roman Catholic education is sought after by all sections of the community.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Education Committee for their commitment to St. Ninian’s High School and we look forward to supporting the school and the Education department in the education of our young people.

Kind regards

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

Michael Ward  
Chair  
St. Ninian's High School Parent Council

Note 1:- St. Ninian's High School Parent Council, Response to the Consultation dated 7th October 2016, Page 2, Additional Capacity Paragraph “We would suggest that ERC explore innovative and value adding solutions to the capacity issues which will leave a legacy of permanent and improved facilities at St Ninian’s High School for future generations of pupils.” A copy of our full submission is attached for your information.