

St Ninian's High School Parent Forum
Annual General Meeting – 5th December 2016
Report by the Parent Council

This report details the main activities of the Parent Council for the year to November 2016.

The Parent Council met on 8 occasions during the school year 2015/16 and has also met three times to date in this academic year (2016/17). Minutes for all meetings have been published on the school website and are available for viewing.

The current chair of the Parent Council is Michael Ward and the vice-chair is Debbie Manini, who between them chaired all meetings during the year.

The Parent Council was represented at both of the Parent Council chairs' meeting held during 2015/16 on 7th October 2015 & 17th February 2016. The third meeting, scheduled for 8th June 2016, was cancelled by the Education Department. There has been one such meeting this year to date, held on 13th October 2016 and again the Parent Council was represented. All issues raised at these meetings were relayed back to the next Parent Council meeting.

Parent Council member Joe McLachlan remains the parent representative from the East Renfrewshire Council area on the National Parent Forum and has directly reported on appropriate developments from its meetings.

School Budget

Following the response submitted by the Parent Council to the "Shaping our Future" consultation (East Renfrewshire Council proposed budget cuts 2015-18), discussion continued on the implications for St Ninian's High School and is noted within the various minutes. The most recent Parent Council chairs' meeting indicated that a further round of budget reductions was under consideration but would not be finalised until the local government settlement was finalised by the Scottish Government. This is a subject area which is likely to be re-visited by the Parent Council later in the school year.

Pressure on places at St Ninian's

Following a discussion at the January 2016 meeting the Parent Council was concerned about the increased roll at the school's cluster primaries and wrote to the Director of Education seeking information on projected school intakes at St Ninian's. This led to a lengthy correspondence and protracted discussion at subsequent meetings culminating in a report from the Director of Education to the Education Committee followed by a consultation process. St. Ninian's High School Parent Council was a statutory consultee in this and held a Parent Forum meeting to canvass the views of parents. It also wrote to all parents & carers asking for the view and received a number of responses. Following this process and discussion at the October meeting a submission was made supporting the proposals made by the Director. The outcome of this consultation has just been published and will be discussed by the Parent Council at its meeting on 5th December.

School Facilities

The ongoing issue of pressure on school facilities (classrooms – both general and specialised, restrooms, changing areas and recreation space) has been regularly discussed and was a significant point of concern raised during the above consultation process. The Parent Council has requested a presentation on the specifics of this issue and will continue to support the school to work to ensure that the physical environment can support the exceptional efforts of the school staff.

Sports Facilities

The Parent Council is pleased to report that work has commenced on upgrading the former rugby pitch area to the east of the school and it is believed that this area will be available for use by the start of the 2017/18 academic year.

National Improvement Framework (NIF)

The Parent Council made a response to the Scottish Government's announcement of the NIF.

Review of the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006

Governance Review of Early Years and Schools Education

There have recently been consultations announced by the Scottish Government on the above and the Parent Council along with the National Parent Forum is currently considering its response.

Presentations by School Staff

The Parent Council has been privy to numerous presentations over the course of the year including on the Faith Audit Report by Mr J Cumming, on the activities within Art & Design by Miss L Howard and on School Safety Procedures, the OECD Report on Scottish Schools and the Prevent Strategy by Mr Docherty. These have been very informative and give an insight into the work being carried out on many levels within the schools.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Mr Docherty has given a report at each of the meetings on recent activities within the school including school trips, concerts and other extra-curricular activities. The Parent Council notes the commitment of school staff to these activities and is very appreciative of their continuing work in developing and supporting these.

Exam Performance

Mr Docherty also presented to the Parent Council the results of the 2016 examination diet and once again the attainment of St Ninian's pupils was exceptional at all levels. In particular it was noted that there is strong performance for pupils in all SIMD bands and this is a result of the strategies developed and implemented by the school to maximise the potential of all pupils. The Parent Council commends and is grateful to school staff for their commitment to our young people.

Constitution

The Parent Council does not propose any amendments to its Constitution.

Parent Council Membership

There is currently one vacancy for a parent members of the Parent Council and we would encourage any parents or carers of pupils to consider becoming involved in the work of the Parent Council. The Parent Council has the opportunity to discuss and explore many areas of the school's work and to support the school.

Parent Members

As chair I would like to thank the other parent members and the church representative, Ronnie Convery, for their support and input.

School Staff

The Parent Council would like to thank Mr Docherty and the members of the school staff who have attended the Parent Council meetings since the last AGM.

As noted above the Parent Council would once again like to express its sincere thanks to Mr Docherty, the Senior Management team, other teaching staff and the non-teaching staff for their outstanding effort and engagement in the education and development of the pupils of St Ninian's High School.

The Parent Council continues to offer its full support to the school and its staff.



Michael Ward
Chair

For and on behalf of St Ninian's High School Parent Council
December 2016