

Dear Candidate,

I write on behalf of St. Ninian's High School Parent Council to you as a candidate at the forthcoming local authority elections.

As a Parent Council we have regularly discussed the issue of capacity at St Ninian's High School. As you will be aware St Ninian's High School, under the leadership of Mr John Docherty, supported by a dedicated Senior Management Team, group of teachers and support staff, has provided an outstanding educational environment for many generations of young people. This has been across both academic attainment and wider achievement. The number of opportunities offered to the pupils of the school are wide ranging encouraging personal development in both curricular and extracurricular areas. From an academic attainment perspective the pupils have performed to an exceptionally high standard not only in absolute terms when compared to other schools in the authority area and further afield but also in relative terms for the pupils who come from less advantaged backgrounds. We have seen St Ninian's pupils from SIMD 1&2 outperforming the national average for pupils from SIMD 9&10. It is truly a school which works for all pupils, irrespective of their background.

St Ninian's has had excellent support from East Renfrewshire Council however it is currently working at 5% over capacity with a school roll of over 1,800 pupils against a planned capacity of 1,703. This has placed additional pressure upon the fabric and accommodation within the school with, for example, science classes taking place in "dry" classrooms, a shortage of classrooms in certain departments resulting in staff regularly moving long distances around the school, and long queues at lunch times.

We would place on record our gratitude to East Renfrewshire Council, Mrs Shaw, Mr Docherty, the Senior Management Team and all school staff for their commitment to the education of our children.

We understand that there is pressure on local authority budgets however the medium and long term forecasts for school roll at St Ninian's show that this over capacity will continue. We further acknowledge that budget has been provided for the period 2021-2027 to accommodate the transitional measures resulting from the recent Catchment consultation. That said we do however believe that there is a very strong case for capital investment in St Ninian's High School in the short term to address current issues and have made this case to the Education Department through the responses to the two recent consultation exercises (on (1) Admission Arrangements and (2) Establishment of a Joint Campus School in Newton Mearns) as well as at various meetings and through correspondence with the Director of Education and her staff.

Bearing this in mind, we would like to understand what proposals you, and / or your party, have for St Ninian's High School, and for education within East Renfrewshire.

We are aware of the national consultations that have taken place and of which the results have not been published so any comments that you have on these would also be welcome.

Please note that, as a Parent Council, we will not be making any recommendation on voting but will make any responses available to members of our Parent Forum (the body of parents & carers of pupils at the school).

Many thanks for your consideration of this and in anticipation of your response.

Kind regards

**Mike Ward**

**Chair**

**For and on behalf of**

**St Ninian's High School Parent Council**