

St Joseph’s Primary School Parent Council

St Joseph’s Primary School

Minutes of meeting of 16th April 2019

**Attendees**

Parents: Andrew Mackie (Chairman), Louise McKean (Vice Chair), Ian Anderson (Treasurer), Ann Boyle (Social Convener), Katrina Adams (Uniform Rep), Caroline Gray, Jackie McHendry, Trish Gordon, Cllr Ireland

**St Joseph’s School Representatives**: Suzanne Martin (Head Teacher), Karen Wynne (Deputy Head Teacher), Clionagh Leddy (Principal Teacher), Jennifer Wright (Principal Teacher), J Baker (Principal Teacher), Frances Quinn (Class Teacher)

**Apologies**: Samantha McConnell, Maureen Harcombe, Joanne Bastable, Chris McGowan

**Opening Prayer** – Andrew Mackie

**Minutes of previous meetin**g – were circulated and approved.

**Head Teacher’s Report** – **Suzanne Martin**

* 1. 1 post filled and teacher will start in August. 1 post remains vacant
  2. There will be a reduction in pupil support assistants as of August 2019. Waiting on clarification on the reduction in hours.
  3. This year’s Masterclasses have been a huge success with a lot of support form family of pupils and the community. Mrs Martin thanked Mrs Leddy for all her work in coordinating this.
  4. Primary 7 classes have raised over £1k through the ‘Grow £5 Challenge’. This will be spent on their leavers event and there will also be a donation to the Bishop’s Fund.
  5. Mrs Martin spoke about the role of the Parent Council and how to be more proactive. Mrs Martin would like PC to help tackle some of the issues raised by parents in the parent questionnaire issued by the School. PC should look to focus on sub-committees and try to attract more parents to be involved. PC could also look at National issues, ask parent body for input, look into local development and how this affects the School, look into John Swinney’s agenda, have more of a presence on social media. Members of the PC commented that resource is a big problem and most of the Office Bearer work full or part time. In addition there were previous issues with potential social media presence. PC asked for Mrs Martin to indicate which areas she would like PC to focus on.

**Social Committee Report** – **Anne Boyle**

1. Family night was a success and all tickets sold. Made a profit of £504
2. Pope Francis Faith Award Coffee Morning morning raised £288 and all funds donated to St Joseph’s Church.
3. Spring Discos will be held next week
4. Communion Breakfast in May which is paid for from funds raised by Social Committee.
5. Summer Fayre being held on 15th June

**Treasurer’s Report** – **Ian Anderson**

Confirmed just under £8000 in bank. £1,900 recently paid out in requests from School and flasks for coffees to be used at events organised by Social Committee

**Uniform Update**

1. Leavers Hoodies have been issued
2. Received 5% back on sales
3. P1 inductions will be same format as last year.

**Supporting School Infrastructure**

Concern around reduction in Pupil Support Assistants which will affect monitoring of children in playground especially more vulnerable children. Discussion around security of school in terms of children being able to leave school grounds. A sub-committee is required to keep lobbying the Council on this matter and general fabric of the School.

**Parent Council Chairs Meeting**

Chair gave an update of discussion at recent meeting. One of the topics of discussion was mental health and various agencies offering support.

Mrs Wynne is a trained mental Health Counsellor for the School. St Joseph’s has a very robust system in place to support mental health in the School.

**AOB**

Cllr Ireland has asked for hedges to be cut down in lane at side of School. Issue around ownership of lane.

Discussion around mess being left in School playground over weekends and clean up that is required at the beginning of week.

Discussion around School bus drop off. Cllr Ireland had spoken to the Council and no appetite for putting up railing. Suggestion that bus stops at top of lane and only moves once all children exited and round the corner. However, this could block resident’s driveway. So would need neighbour’s consent.

Discussion around drainage in lane. Cllr Ireland to speak with Council regarding this.

Confirmed there are links on ERC website regarding proposals for new Catholic High School and Primary School.

Date of Next Meeting – [ ] September 2019 7pm at St Joseph’s Primary School

Louise McKean (Vice Chair)