



# St Joseph's Primary Parent Council



Held via MS Teams

## Minutes of Parent Council Meeting 20th September 2022

### Parent Attendees

Claire Campbell (Secretary), Sharon Constable (Chair), Samantha MacConnell (Vice Chair), Jackie McHendry (Treasurer), Stacey Hogg (Social Secretary), Kirsty McDiarmid (Vice Social Secretary), Katrina Adams (Uniform Secretary), Gillian MacKinnon, Nicola Hill, Lia Ives, Clare Friel, Aimee Scullion, Julie Waugh, Karen Trodden, Jennifer Walker, Jonathan Carroll, Julie Flaherty, Lindsay Jack, Angela Macklin, Suzanne Kavanagh, Karen Jordan, Leanne Macklin

**St Joseph's School Representatives:** Suzanne Martin (Head Teacher), Karen Wynne (Deputy Head), Clionagh Leddy (Principal Teacher), Hannah Addison (Acting Principal Teacher)

**St Joseph's Parish Representative:** Frank Rankin

Opening Prayer

Introductions and Apologies

**Apologies:** Ian Anderson

Minutes of previous meeting and circulated and approved

Proposed by **Katrina Adams** Seconded by **Samantha McConnell**

### Matters arising

Katrina raised the issue that was highlighted at the last meeting re the drainage. Trish Gordon was to forward this to the Council but we don't have confirmation that this has happened. Katrina will take this forward.

### Chairs Update

Only item is the Connect liability insurance. Connect membership paid by ERC and need to submit once we have new contact details as Sharon is stepping down.

Equality forum on behalf of ERC being led by the Child Protection Officer. Office Bearers to advise if they are available to attend on behalf of the Parent Council.

## **Head Teachers Update**

Hannah Addison has been successful in becoming Acting Principal teacher for P4 & P5. Mrs Martin is delighted to have her as part of the Senior Management Team. Miss Lavery is currently on loan to St John's for the year as acting depute. A number of members of staff are due to commence maternity leave this term and Mrs Downs has just returned. This can be difficult in terms of staffing but Mrs Martin will ensure that disruption to the children is minimised.

We have 2 NQTs this year - Mrs Sutherland (former PSA) is working in P2 and Mr McKeegan is working with P6. The school is delighted to welcome them both. Miss McBride continues as a recovery teacher.

There have been changes to the PSA staff with just Mrs Lavellette and Mrs Allen having worked here previously.

The £18k PEF money provided by the Scottish Government has been used to cover the cost of outdoor learning, sports and providing support for the cost of the school day. Each class will receive 2 sessions of outdoor learning at the Off-grid Kids facility, which is costing £2k. Reading recovery is being funded from staff budget and Mrs Leddy is leading this for P2 and P3.

We have 491 children over 14 classes this year, which is a drop of 10 from last year. Attendance is 95% which is very good but a note will be in the next Newsletter reminding parents that children should not be taken out of school for holidays and that, where possible, doctors and dental appointments should be made outside school hours where possible.

Assessments were done at the start of the term to allow staff to determine which children will need additional support or nurture.

Overall attainment is in line with last term and remains very good. From primaries 3, 5 and 7, 90% are achieving or above the National Standard. We are the highest achieving primary school in East Renfrewshire, which is a credit to our staff and our parents.

Most children in P7 received the Pope Francis Faith Award at the end of last term. All children are put forward for the award regardless of their faith - the award is not about being Catholic but about putting faith into action via good works and supporting the community. A high percentage of children received a parish commendation, which can be obtained via form which Cn Stephen needs to sign.

Playful pedagogy is going well and will continue to evolve through the school, with particular support being given to the P6 & P7 teachers.

My World Triangle questionnaires have been used to help identify children where additional nurture and support is needed.

The children have settled well and have been great. The children know they are loved and have a sense of belonging at the school.

With restrictions easing, hoping to have parents involved in the school more going forward.

Mrs Martin expressed her gratitude to parents for getting children to school on time and in uniform. She encouraged parents to contact the school if support is needed.

Parent workshops recommenced but there has been poor uptake. Teachers put a lot of effort into these. A questionnaire will go out to see if there is something the school can do to make it easier for parents to attend.

There was a discussion about the times of the workshop as a lot of parents are still at work at the times the workshops were held. Mrs Martin noted that evening workshops had been trialled previously and attendance had not been much different. Parents Evenings will again be split between in person meetings and phone calls. A form will be issued to parents shortly asking for their preference.

All areas of the curriculum have been reintroduced.

A collaborative authority visit is due. This is a visit from a group including the Quality Assurance office plus other head teachers from the authority. The visit will include areas identified by the school for them to review and then they will provide a report which will be sent to the school. Some parents have been asked to spend some time with the QA team.

Contingency plans remain in place in the event of strikes by support/janitorial staff but not in the case of teachers' strikes. All parents should ensure their child can access Google classroom.

On behalf of the parents, outgoing chair Sharon Constable, thanked Mrs Martin and her staff for keeping the school running so well.

### **Diocesan Forum Update**

There have been no Diocesan forums since the last PC meeting in June, but the latest Centred on Christ has been issued. Frank will send an electronic copy to the school so it can be added to the school website.

The children's liturgy has restarted at 10 o'clock mass during term time.

St Joseph's and OLM are alternating assisting at the 10 o'clock mass.

### **Social Secretary Update**

Fundraising and events which took place from Sept 2021 to June 2022

Welcome P1 trail and kids bags, Camera Equipment, Halloween Howl parties, decorating school grounds, games and treats, Winter wonderland workshops & treats, Infants Reading Books, February Ball, playground Equipment for both upper

and lower areas, St Joseph's treats, Easter bunny competition, Communion Brunch, wild week workshops, bouncy castles & go karts and leavers disco.

Parental support and assistance this term with signing up to Easy-funding page, parents monthly/one off payments, gardening tools & equipment, wood chips for around the planters, sand for our infants sandpits, painting garden pods, bench, tables & Bug house & contribution from our Leavers hoodies.

29th September - P1 welcome evening will be held within the school gym hall, entertainment and refreshments.

Provisional date for - Halloween discos, Permit in place however still await PVGs once received confirmation they are in place we will issue out flyer to parents. Social meeting will take place 4th October and a link will be sent out 20th September.

### **Treasurer's Update**

<b>Opening balance as at 1 August 2022</b>	<b>£1,083</b>	
<b>Parent donations</b>	£195	
<b>Easy fundraising</b>	£119	
<b>School activities (including P1 Welcome Night)</b>		<b>-£225</b>
<b>Other expenses (from last session)</b>		<b>-£90</b>
<b>Revised balance as at 19 September 2022</b>	<b>£1,082</b>	

Since 1 August, the Parent Council has received £195 in parental donations and £119 from Easy fundraising. £315 has been spent on activities for the school children, including P1 welcome night and £90 of spend from the prior session.

### **Uniform Update**

P1s eventually got their orders. There will be an order going out early next week for winter top up.

Some invoicing to be done before handing over to Sam.

### **AOCB**

Request to allow children to wear PE uniforms to school on Gym days. Infants can wear PE kits/ t-shirts on PE days. Teachers handling changing children well considering lack of changing areas in building. The layout of the building can be restrictive in terms of what activities can be undertaken.

A parent asked if St Joseph's can have their own school football team? Mrs Martin noted that a lot of the boys already play in the ERSDA league and would need dads to come forward to lead the team(s). St Cadoc's and OLM teams are no longer affiliated with the respective schools. For the Bishop Tartaglia tournament, trials were held for girls, P6 and P7 teams. Dads stepped up and to run training/teams. Mrs MacBride will coach the girls

team. Would also like to establish a netball team too. Historically, there were teams but it is difficult to maintain long term. Consider getting new strips - got them a few years ago but not all boys have handed them back and some were stolen from school. If any parent would like to sponsor a team they would be most welcome.

Mrs Lavelette has volunteered to coach the P7 netball team at lunchtimes once a week. Along with Mrs Redman, she is preparing them to compete in competitions through active schools.

Next Parent Council Meeting will be held on 8th November 2022

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