



St Joseph's Primary Parent Council



Minutes of Parent Council 27th November 2023

Parent Attendees

Claire Campbell (Secretary), Jonathan Carroll (Chair), Aimee Scullion (Vice Chair), Nicola Hill (Treasurer), Lynn Johnson (Vice Treasurer), Suzanne Kavanah (Social Secretary), Amy Dickson (Vice Secretary)

Sharon Constable, Karen Jordan, Claire Carr, Stacey Hogg, Rosie McCluskey, Angela Macklin, Kirsty McDiarmid

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: Rebecca Harrison (see apologies)

Opening Prayer lead by Suzanne Martin

Introductions and Apologies

Apologies: Canon Stephen, Samantha MacConnell (Uniform Secretary), Rebecca Harrison

Minutes of previous meeting were circulated and approved

Proposed by **Stacey Hogg** Seconded by **Rosie McCluskey**

Chair's Update

Welcoming Amy Dickson as Vice Secretary and extending thanks to Suzanne Kavanagh and Karen Jordan who have both been very busy in their respective roles. Levels of engagement have been great. Many parents are supporting them in their work. Thanks to all involved.

Feedback was also given on most recent ER Parent Forum meeting held at Barrhead High School on Wednesday 11th October. Noted its focus on sharing of the ER Education Improvement Plan under the auspices of "Everyone Attaining - Everyone Achieving-Excellent Experiences" and improving levels of parental engagement. An overview was also given of the purpose, role and functions of a Parent Council and advertised upcoming ER recruitment training courses that would enable members of the Parent Councils to participate in the respective recruitment of DHT and HT posts as required.

Head Teacher's Report

Unfortunately, Mrs Bell has suffered a bereavement and is on long term absence. Mrs. Briggs is being brought out of retirement to assist. Her PGV is awaited. Mrs. Briggs' time will be flexible and she won't be tied to a full-time contract.

Mrs. Parsons will be returning on 5th December on a part-time basis for a period of 6 months and then full time. Mrs Redmond will pick up the other half. She is giving a lot of additional support at present. Mrs. Parsons will pick up learning support.

Mrs Lavery is due to return in January and we are all delighted to have her back.

With people returning, we will be losing some members of staff. Mrs McCardle will be leaving but she will then be brought back 1 day / week. She is a trained counsellor and has a wealth of experience with children who require emotional support. She will be back on Fridays from January.

Mrs. Convery will also be leaving to spend more time with new additions to her family. She'll be available to come in on supply as and when required.

The children's feedback from the Halloween Howl was that they loved it. It is always one of their favourite days of the year. Thanks to all the parent helpers and to the parent council for arranging the treats.

School budget continues to be very limited. The cost of paying for buses to take primary 4 swimming is very expensive and over £1,000. The school is still not allowed to charge children. If children are going on trips, parents will be asked if they are happy to pay for it. Primary 2 recently went to the Science Centre and had to pay £10. Any parents who are unable to pay, will have their child's place paid for them if they are in financial difficulties to ensure that every child has equal access.

To celebrate World Children's Day, the pupils were rewarded with an extra play. We managed to regain the Bronze award for Rights Respecting Children. Mrs. Williamson and Mrs. Gruner are taking steps to put the school forward for the Silver award.

Pupils from S4-6 at St. Ninians have been into the school taking part in science with some of the classes. It is part of the Stem cluster. The pupils have been having great fun with them so thank you to St. Ninian's.

Williamwood High School's sports leaders have been in with primary 4 and 6. We are trying to forge a relationship with them. The current headteacher is happy to send pupils down to us.

The Winter Warmers book club has been running on Mondays and Wednesdays 8-15-845am. Trying to keep the children warm before school. Primary 7 pupils have been helping on a rota basis.

Thanks to Mrs Addison and Laudato Si for Catholic Education Week. Offering lots of opportunities for reflection and showing the importance that Catholic schools have. We do need to shout about what our schools mean and the difference that we make to our community and children. Thanks to Johnny and Aimee who worked to put in a response.

The Workshops have been cancelled for primary 1 and 2. There were only 8 responses for primary 2 and 9 for primary 1. Staff were giving up lot of their time. These will be rescheduled. The power points will be uploaded onto Google classrooms.

There was a positive response to parents night. It ran smoothly and parents were not waiting too long for appointments.

Everything is confirmed for Winter Wonderland. Can't get reindeer and can only get 1 snowglobe. Trying to think of something else we can put in the playground. A lot of children have asked about snowball fights.

There is additional support available for families. We know most of the families who require additional support but we are aware that some go under radar. If you know of a family who could do with additional support or financial assistance, please let the school know and we'll go in gently and provide any support needed. We have access to St Vincent De Paul, foodbanks etc. We can identify the families to a certain extent but please let us know if there are any families who would benefit from support.

Christmas dates have been sent out for advent services and nativities. Children are in fine voice and looking forward to parents coming to see them perform. First performance is on Friday with primary 4.

Regarding the recent homework survey there were no huge concerns nor consensus. It will be sent out to the children after Christmas and we can get an overview. Will come up with a few ideas once we have the children's feedback.

Family Centre Approach accreditation today. Parents came in today to tell them how wonderful we are. Appreciate you giving up time to tell them. All very positive. Well done to Mrs. Leddy who has been putting stuff up around school. Mrs. Leddy thanking all parents. There was a huge response to the questionnaire with 185 people responding. Some schools only get single digits. Also, lots of parents made an effort to add in extra comments which were very nice and will be shared with staff. We will send out a big email thanking parents.

We've also achieved Gold in our Family Centred Approaches. We couldn't have done it without the support from parents and the children were all great.

Diocesan Church Representative Report (Johnny Carroll in Rebecca Harrison's absence)

Feedback given on most recent Diocesan meeting held on 30th October. Noting its focus was on the RSHP consultation concerning proposed contentious updated draft guidance as well as then delivering an overview of the newly developed diocesan S1 Religious Education materials.

Treasurer's Update

Since the last meeting on 11th September, we have spent £963 and have raised £3,494. The current balance as of 26th November is £5,992. Details are shown below.

Assuming all the funds raised from the Sponsored Bounce are allocated to the Playground Equipment, the current total for this is £3,664.

Opening balance as at 11th September 2023	£3,461	
Easy Fund Raising	£465	
Parent donations	£170	
Halloween Activities	£1,295	-£413
AGM Expenses		-£200
P1 Welcome Night		-£170
School Clean Up		-£50
Sponsored Bounce	£1,564	-£130
Revised balance as at 26th November 2023	£5,992	

Spent £100 for reflection night on Thursday.

Social Secretary's Update

Angela Macklin has offered to become Vice Social secretary. Looking to vote Angela in.

JC proposing Angela. Suzanne seconding

Primary 1 welcome night went ahead.

Halloween disco profit of £802.

Sponsored bounce did really well going to playground equipmentn

Winter wonderland materials for workshops and selection boxes. Trying to keep to £800 overall.

£10 for parents to pay on parentpay which pays for everything.

Next year proposed events:

Fundraiser in February of 100 squares

Communion brunch

Summer Fayre in school

St Joseph's Day March Event

Easter March/April Fundraiser

Communion Brunch April Event

Wild Week June Event – the school request payment for this event, however, the Parent Council contributes up to £2,000.

P7 Disco June Event.

Still looking to purchase bits of equipment for back trim trail. Would like it to be used more often but ground is marsh.

There is an issue with drainage in the upper playground which is historical. There is a significant issue with rain coming down and then freezing and it can become dangerous. There have been attempts to tackle it in the past but none have been successful.

Mrs Wynne confirming that it is a historic issue and contributed to by the increase in the number of properties in the area. There has been an increase in flooding in the Waterfoot area. Time has previously been spent walking round the building with surveyors from the Authority. Work was done regarding the silt and drainage but seems to be a massive structural issue. It is something that is worth taking forward with Authority.

Additional Fundraiser's over the years have been -

Family days, black tie, curry nights, Christmas stalls, summer fayre, 100 squares, tea towels, photography, sponsored bounce, etc

This year, after considering the views and opinions of the latest Parent Council survey on Uniform and Social, we would like to host (subject to agreement with HT)

Sponsor bounce - November

100 squares - February

Summer Fayre June 2024 – this Fayre will accommodate all our St Joseph families.

The parents survey indicated that more family days would be welcomed. The school fayre in May will allow all families in the school to attend.

UNIFORM REP UPDATE (read by Amy Dickson in Samantha McConnell's absence)

Following our AGM in September, the Parent Council has communicated via various channels it's decision to focus solely upon our pre-loved uniform offering, as this aligns with our Laudato Si ethos of sustainability & of lowering the cost of the school day for our parents.

Our most recent event on Sunday 1st October was well supported by our parents, raising £137 profit which was split equally between the church and school funds. As well as badged & unbadged uniform items, we had new & lightly worn school shoes, wellies, Communion dresses & Halloween costumes for sale. We were very ably supported at our last event by several 6th form St. Ninians pupils. Indeed 2 of these pupils supported Karen & myself on Saturday 4th November, sorting through our stock with a view to starting an inventory of stock. This involvement has been facilitated by our Luadato Si Faith Team & is much appreciated. Thank you to Karen & Jonny for all of their work in this area.

Our next pre-loved uniform event will be held on Sunday 3rd December after 10am Mass in St. Joseph's Church Hall, where we will have badged & unbadged uniform items, new & lightly worn school shoes, wellies & Communion dresses for sale. We are also appealing for Christmas jumpers ahead of the festive season, to complement the HT's annual Christmas jumper swap in December. As always, a small cash or online donation is very welcomed, if possible.

Donations can be dropped off to school on any Friday during term time or during holidays by arrangement to my home address. Ahead of our next event we would particularly welcome any donations of Communion Clothes & Christmas Jumpers.

We now have 3 more pre-loved event dates for diaries, being Sundays 4th February, 7th April & 2nd June 2024.

Finally, we have been busy finalising our supply chain for Leavers Hoodies. I am pleased to advise that we will be using a new company called Logowear this year. The cost of the

children's sizes is £17.99 & the cost for adult hoodies is £18.95+vat (£22.74). I am aiming to come in with sample sizes and size the children on Friday 1st December. This will give parents an idea of what size they may wish to order. Order form will be out early January and the deadline for ordering & paying will be 2nd February. The bulk order will go off then & we anticipate delivery of the hoodies mid March. An email with all of this information will go out to p7 parents this week.

Any questions, comments or suggestions, or if anyone requires any items of pre-loved stock in between our events, please contact Samantha on stjosephsuniforms@gmail.com

RSHP Consultation Response (RSHP)

Overview provided on the development and approval of our now submitted response to the RSHP consultation concerning proposed updated draft guidance. Noted thanks and appreciation for the range of discussions and contributions over many weeks both within the Parent Council and beyond, with other Parent Councils from within the St. Ninian's High School cluster and across the Diocese, that generated our response.

Laudato Si/Faith Group

Cluster School Parent Reflection evening 30th Nov at 7pm

- Theme is Reflection on the First Family (Joseph, Mary and Jesus)
- Readings on the annunciation, birth, Fleeing to Egypt, Jesus in the temple by representatives of 4 schools
- Fr. Stephen input drawing similarities of those stories to parenting struggles today
- Time for quiet reflection
- Song to finish
- Refreshments (mince pies and mulled wine)

Preloved uniforms

- Successful Halloween costume and uniform event in Oct
- Begun the inventory process with St Ninians pupils assisting at events and stock checks
- Communion dresses and Winter uniform at the next recycling event in Dec.

Minnie Vinnies

- Parent workshop for children once a month from Jan- May during lunch break
- Drawing on themes of St Vincent De Paul
- Workshops could be less like a class but more activities allowing children to think about poverty, social exclusion and how they can respond spiritually, personally.

School clean up (Term 2)

- Outdoor prayer space
- Clean up

Mrs Addison has been a huge support for this.

Health and Safety Petition

Provided an update on progress of petition, noting that, to date, it has secured, 190 signatures. Secured agreement to now close the petition and begin the process of presenting the petition to ERC and elected councillors representing the ward the school resides within. An accompanying suggestion that the children of the school generate their own form of petitioning on this issue was welcomed by HT and thought will be given as to how best to facilitate this opportunity.

Communications

We are in partnership with Carolside re: a school Facebook page. It does exist but nothing has been put on it as yet until sorted out the logistics of it.

AS advising that she was speaking to Carolside and they said that would meet up with us to discuss how data can be stored and protected etc. We are going to set up a Whatsapp group with the parents in charge of the Facebook page at Carolside, and then in the New Year we can meet up and have chat about it and hopefully get it up and running.

AOCB

JC proposing 2 new office bearers - a communications secretary and laudato si secretary. Should be formal posts given the amount of work that the people involved put in.

Mrs. Martin advising that the creation of 2 new posts would have to be done at an AGM as it has to be an even playing field for everyone to nominate. Connect Scotland may be able to offer advise in relation to best way to do that.

An Audit needs to be done of the Parent Council books. They have not been done for over a year and will need done by end of the financial year. Can put a message out to the parent body for any accountants who may be willing to volunteer their time to do the books.

Meeting brought to a close.