



St Joseph's Primary Parent Council



Minutes of Parent Council 29th April 2024

Parent Attendees

Claire Campbell (Secretary), Jonathan Carroll (Chair), Nicola Hill (Treasurer), Lynn Johnson (Vice Treasurer), Amy Dickson (Vice Secretary) Samantha McConnell (uniform rep.), Karen Jordan (Laudato Si rep.)

Sharon Constable, Claire Carr, Rosie McCluskey ,Angela Macklin, Kirsty McDiarmid, Mark Lilley, Jacqueline Lamanga, Raksha Choudry, Julie Richardson

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

St Joseph's Parish Representative: Rebecca Harrison (see apologies)

Opening Prayer lead by Suzanne Martin

Introductions and Apologies

Apologies: Canon Stephen, Aimee Scullion (Vice Chair), Stacey Hogg, Suzanne Kavanah (Social Secretary)

Minutes of previous meeting were circulated and approved

Proposed by Rebecca Harrison Seconded by Johnny Carroll

(minutes under head teacher's report of previous minutes 7th Para to be changed to PEF)

Chair's Update

Expressing thanks to all staff for preparing the communicants for their First Communions and also those receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. A lot of work goes into and it is greatly appreciated by the parent body.

In relation to the petition regarding the school grounds, we received a quick response from Authority but we have not had confirmation that any of the ideas have materialised. JC will contact Joe McCaig. It is surprising that no response has been received from any of the other councillors. JC will get in contact with individual councillors to chase that up.

Head Teacher's Report

Staffing for next session will remain the same. The projected school role is down due to the number of primary 7s leaving the school compared to the number of primary 1s due to join the school. There will be 44 new primary 1 children joining us in August - 22 in each class.. Other schools in the Authority are at capacity.

Have 1 member of staff on maternity- Mrs Stewart. She won't be back until early 2025. Also have Mrs Parsons expecting second child in September.

Due to budget constraints, the school had to make £46,000 worth of savings. The supply teachers funds of £18,000 had to be given back hence why members of the management team fill any teacher sickness absence as we don't have the budget for supply teachers. We are fortunate as do have enough staffing to be able to cover that. Mrs Leddy supports additional support groups along with Mrs Addison and Mrs Lavery. We are going to be allocated 2 new qualified teachers.

Congratulations extended to the primary 4s who have recently celebrated their First Communion. Primary 7 is looking forward to their Confirmation at the Cathedral on Thursday. 86 pupils from OLM and 62 from St Joseph's so the Cathedral will be busy.

The transitions for primary 1 and primary 7 have started. Invited down in nursery groups. Parents information afternoon has been arranged when parents can see round the school.

Currently p1,4, and 7 are doing their standardised assessments. These can be accessed at home but parents should not do so or assist their children with the assessments as, if they do so, the assessment has to be disregarded and they cannot be reset as the Government is in charge of it.

Report cards- some parents confused by levels as we'd been asked to change reporting. It looks like child has gone backwards but that's not the case. If it says 1st level it means that level has been passed and working on 2nd level. Have taken on feedback and will make sure next year more-user friendly.

Parents evening- next Thursday 9th May and it will take place all in one evening. Some find it easier doing it that way and option of slightly later. Most appointments will be face to face.

Come and See my learning- lovely to see parents and children love having you in school.

Wild week plans are taking shape and some new activities are being introduced. Also using Off Grid during that week and bringing in Williamwood S6 to do orienteering.

Looked at Lockerbie Manor for next year. Reducing the number of days as difficult to cover classes. The ratio has to be 1 teacher to 10 children. It's a lot of staff that need to be released to cover the trip. It will be 2 nights and 3 days. It will be much less expensive, as was very expensive this year. We are aware that it is expensive for parents and we want to make sure children still get the experience. An email will come out over the next few weeks.

Parental questionnaire- 181 responses from parents. Thanks to those who completed it. We won't know the results of it until the Authority meets to discuss it.

Looking to next year for PEF funding. £18,500 has been allocated. 13 pupils who qualify for it. We take a universal approach so the funding is used in a more holistic way. The funds pay for Off Grid and for Ms Lavery who is going in and targeting children to support them. Also been used for after school clubs. Had at one point 14 after school clubs in 1 week. Thanks to staff who took part and organised the clubs. We always ask the PEF children what they want to do and try and do those activities.

Also had Mrs McCardle who is a qualified counsellor but not in counselling capacity. Works with nurture groups and PEF children to support them. All these things come from PEF fund. Anything that you feel that should be including within for this year? If do think of anything, send email to Mrs Martin. Parents should also let the school know if they are aware of any families who may benefit from the fund.

School improvement plan for next year- additional support for learning. All been CIRCLE trained which Mrs Addison has been leading. Collaboration to support inclusion of children through the creation of an enabling environment and pupil engagement. Can look to see how we can create conditions that are engaging for them. Circle Framework Training was carried out by Mrs. Addison.

All the teachers have done the Open University course. It looks at how to support children in the class without always having to bring in a psychologist etc. Considers what changes can be made to support children in class.

We are looking at opportunities for staff, curriculum pathways for children and AI literacy. Children get the opportunity to lead their learning. A Google form will be sent out to parents for comments as to whether there are things missing from the Curriculum.

Diocesan Church Representative Report

Introducing travelling rosary for primary 4. Can go home to any family who wants to take that up. Should be a nice thing for the children. Engages at home in prayer. Wanted to do it pre-communion time but there was a delay with distribution.

Diocesan family day in St. John's barrhead Sunday 12th May. Can advertise through Laudato Si group. 2-5 with Mass at 4.

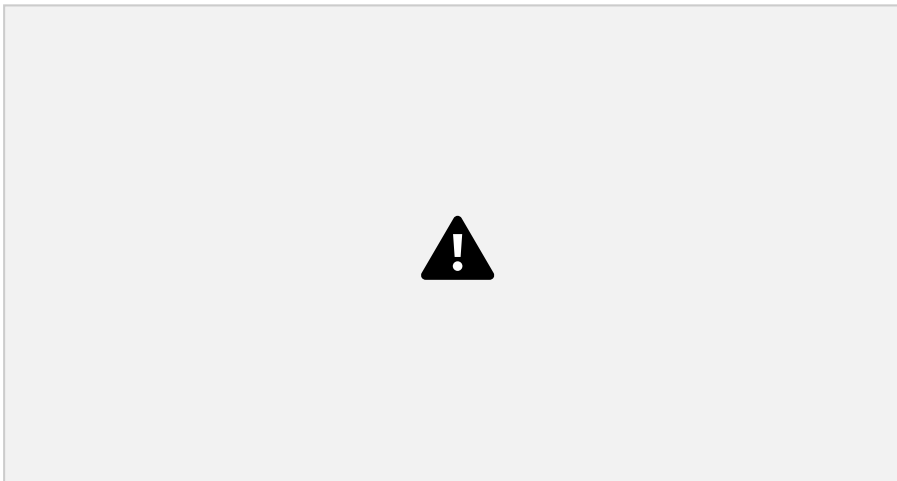
Next parent forum is 13th May. Main topics are preparing for Holy year 2025 and ways we can celebrate it. Themes of pilgrims of hope and strategic plan.

Also going to be working on a Sacrament of Confirmation application through Alan who is 1 of the parents.

Treasurer's Update

Since the last meeting on 26th February, we have spent £1,049 and have raised £1,090. The current balance as of 29th April is £6,396. Details are shown below.

In the previous update we had received the majority of the 100 Square sales (£830), so overall profit was £710.



Social Secretary's Update

Feb 100 square- £710

Provided treats on St Joseph's day

Communion brunch went well

Wild week- liaising with the school as to what can assist with

Summer Fayre is due to take place on 8th June. Stalls arranged and inflatables. A Flyer will be issued for donations. 44 families have purchased tickets and hoping for more families to buy tickets to make it profitable.

Mrs Martin will ask children at assembly to ask parents to buy tickets

P7 disco - Tuesday 25th June

UNIFORM REP UPDATE

I am pleased to say that our pre-loved uniform event of Sunday 28th April went well, raising £95, which has been split as usual between pc & church funds.

We have no larger sized blazers at the moment. I have a parent looking for a boys 30inch blazer if anyone has one they would be happy to donate. We are also short of aged 7-9 boys shorts. Finally, we have a parent looking for size 2/3 hiking shoes (or similar) for the upcoming residential trip if anyone has a pair to donate? Please contact Samantha at <mailto:stjosephspsuniforms@gmail.com> if you are able to assist with either of these specific requests.

We would like to ask our P7 parents if you have blazers & storm jackets in good condition, are do not have younger children to hand down to, we would be grateful to receive these & can take donations during the summer holidays. Donations can be dropped by arrangement to Samantha by contacting her at <mailto:stjosephspsuniforms@gmail.com> or dropped at any time to the school office during term.

In our opinion our uniform events are best attended when they slot in with the family masses & that rescheduling should be avoided where possible. We will therefore run our next event as planned on Sunday 2nd May after 10am mass despite a clash with a school football tournament.

We plan to run an event in early August before the new term starts & seeking permission to use the hall. We will update once we have agreement from Fr. Stephen.

Karen & I will cover the P1 Welcome event on 28th May. We have p1 sized badges & unbadged stock looked out.

I am relieved to say all 77 hoodies ordered when out to children on 17/04/24. Regrettable I made a spelling error with one child's name. The supplier has been very helpful & a corrected hoodie will be provided under the circumstances for this child. I believe everyone else was happy with their orders. One parent has ordered an additional larger size hoodie & again this will be available within the next 7 days.

Gilmour Sports our uniform supplier have confirmed that we have earned total commission of £112.07 being 5% of total sales of £2,241.48 between April 2023 to March 2024.

I will use this towards the new P1 tie order which will go in this week, once Miss Hill conforms numbers with me. We will be reimbursed by the nurseries.

One thing that has occurred to me thanks to background advice from the previous Rep Katrina Adams, is that our commission next year will be considerably higher as we no longer do in-house orders. We will need to think carefully about how we best utilise this commission, given that we no longer order our hoodies from Gilmour Sports. We could take stock of items which we are low on next year (often larger sized blazers) and possibly order in a few of those? This could be agreed upon next year.

It may be best not to have a June event but to have an event the first Sunday of August instead before school goes back.

Ties- historically we always had a stock of at least 20 ties in office. Don't know how many parents know we have this but there are ties available and commission to be spent from purchases made this year from supplier. SMC will check with supplier if commission can be spent on other items rather than just uniform items such as sports equipment. Also could potentially used to buy leavers' ties.

JC will ask Alan about the possibility of there being an application designed to help with the sale of pre-loved uniform stock and to make it all more centralised.

Flyer will be sent to St Ninian's advertising for helpers at pre-loved uniform sale events.

Laudato Si/Faith Group

A number of parents helped tidy up the infant playground. Some primary 6 and 7 pupils did 5 finger prayers on donated slates.

Minnie Vinnies- 3 sessions have taken place with good engagement and attendance. Some weeks have been really busy. As part of the " thinking about other people" session considering making cards for the residents of Bonnington nursing home.

AOCB

Playground equipment maintenance fund- it's creation has previously been approved but need to work out the mechanics of it. Consideration to be given as to whether a specific percentage of money raised should be re-routed to maintenance fund to make sure the donations to the school are sustainable and responsible rather than a liability for the school.

In order to best assess the appropriate percentage of funds to be set aside, Mrs. Martin will obtain quotes for the repair work that requires to be carried out now. Last year £1500 was spent on repair to 1 panel of the trim trail.

The establishment of maintenance fund was approved with specific details of how much to be set aside to be confirmed following receipt of quotes.

60th Anniversary of St Joseph's school - Mark Lilley advising that next year is the Diamond Jubilee of the school moving to its current site and looking to arrange events to celebrate it. It also ties in the Holy Year next year.

Mrs Martin advising that happy to celebrate the diamond jubilee through the curriculum. Look at 1960s as part of social subject. Could do this Jan-Easter which would fall in line for St Joseph's feast day. Or could move to 3rd term for expressive arts.

Looking for a sub committee to be established to discuss ideas for celebrations such as a Mass and social event. Might be an opportunity to link with the parish communities/councils. Discussion around potential papale blessing to recognise school's service to the community.

Chrome books - many grants available for ICT equipment. Discussion around establishing sub group to look into these.