



# St Joseph's Primary Parent Council



## Minutes of Parent Council 26th February 2024

### 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, Julie Richardson, Samantha McConnell, Raksha Choudray, Lia Paton

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

**St Joseph's Parish Representative:** Rebecca Harrison

Opening Prayer lead by Rebecca Harrison

Introductions and Apologies

**Apologies:** Canon Stephen,

Minutes of previous meeting were circulated and approved

Proposed by Johnny Carroll      Seconded by Stacey Hogg

### Chair's Update

Update given on petition concerning safety and security of school grounds. Noted a quick and keen response from authority, including email communication from Mark Ratter and a subsequent telephone conversation with Joe McCaig, that extended to a proposal to upgrade current CCTV provision, bringing the monitoring of footage into the central system, more quickly reporting incidents as they unfold to police and deploying additional patrols of community officers. It was also proposed that a community clean up organisation would most likely welcome the opportunity to work with the school to deep clean school grounds of litter, broken glass and discarded vapes. The authority stated the challenge to do much more is the already tightening squeeze on available funds and resources. Noted no response as yet from any of our councillors sent a copy of the petition but this is something that will be pursued going forward if no response forthcoming in reasonable time.

Update given on authority meetings including the Parent Council Chairs meeting. This included an overview of the authority's Digital Strategy for 2024-27 which includes a focus on developing a response to and use of Artificial Intelligence. Explored proposals within government consultation on processes to be followed with regards to placing requests,

namely continuing the option to hold appeal meetings online rather than in person, with the deadline for the consultation being 12 March 2024. Notification given that the Parental Involvement and Engagement (PIE) census (a national survey) likely to take place end of 2024 or early 2025. Sharing of finalised Primary Class Organisation Policy, that was launched in January 2024 at ER Headteachers meeting, which outlines considerations, options, and timeline of class organisation within restrictions of resources, staffing, space, teaching spaces. Options for reorganisation beyond standard being composite classes, team teaching classes, additional classes within a stage. Timeline to be followed firmly stipulated across authority to provide consistency of process across all ER learning establishments.

### **Maintenance Fund**

Proposal to establish a maintenance fund to contribute to ongoing maintenance of items donated by Parent Council to ensure they remain as an asset to the school and avoid them becoming a liability for which the school/authority would ultimately be liable; incurring costs to maintain or even remove. This proposal was discussed with interest with various ideas and suggestions being explored as to the size of the fund and which revenue streams would contribute. Notionally it was agreed that a levy of between 5 – 10% on monies raised to be diverted to said maintenance fund would give scope for proper and ongoing maintenance of donated items and at end of a three to five year cycle any excess, unused sums, can be rediverted to supporting school in other ways. It was recognised that any such financial structure would need to be advertised to parent body so there was transparency to the allocation of funds.

### **Masterclasses**

To support the school in providing the masterclass programme it was asked that the need for volunteers be promoted by the Parent Council and advertised through our various communication channels.

## Head Teacher's Report

Welcomes Ms Lavery back and Mrs Parsons from maternity leave. Mrs Toland will return at the end of Easter on a part-time basis. Mrs Stewart is going on maternity leave at Easter.

Ms Hill secured the permanent post as office manager and we have a temporary member of staff, Ms Shari in an assistant role.

Children this term enjoying off grid. Mrs Leddy working with off grid to try and secure time there next year as we are currently the only school that is given the opportunity to go there and we don't want to lose that. Mrs Leddy advising that it is mostly ASN schools that use the space but they have allowed us to stay on so far 1 day per week. There is no similar place close by which is within walking distance so hoping to be able to keep going there.

Social studies- the pupils are enjoying their topics. Primary 7 - Germany. 6 - China - 5-Italy. Each year has been assigned a country and the pupils are having a look at what's going on in each country and big questions that want to be answered. Parents will get the chance to see the learning during the last 2 weeks of March. Dates to follow in newsletter this week. Hopefully enough time for parents to attend.

Some school trips have been organised. Each year group has been linked to a social subject in term 3. Infants went to the Science Centre and other trips will be arranged.

Primary 4 have done their sacrament of Reconciliation and have started their preparations for their First Communion. We're looking at allocation for spaces for these. We don't want to go back to pre-Covid numbers as the Church was too busy and too many people. The children are a lot calmer when the Church is not packed and noisy and they enjoy it more when they are sat in pews with their families. It is a lot of work for the teachers and a lot of time out of the curriculum. Cannon Stephen is happy with what we have been doing. Considering 4-5 seats for each family plus a pew which is more places than last year. Primary 4 is big year group but there are quite a few children in Eaglesham which eases up some space in St. Joseph's

After school clubs have been running this term. All funded by TERF. Staff given over their time to these. There have been lots of different things that the children have expressed an interest in and trying to provide as much as possible.

Masterclasses- might need to have a look at a different model. Not a lot of volunteers. We need support from families to run the classes.

Standardised testing has been done this month. We don't get results until the end of June. We, as a cluster, won't put the results into the report cards. It feels a lot of emphasis is put on them. They don't tell us anything that we don't already know about the children. This is just another measure by which we look at overall attainment. The more emphasis we give it, it makes it something it's not. The results are there and we will use them in conjunction with all other measures. The children are so talented in so many different ways, not just literary and numeracy.

St. Joseph's Feast day is on Tuesday. Mass is at 10am. If parents wish to walk their children to Mass they should meet us at the back gates at 9.30am or they can meet us at Mass. When we invade the 9.30 mass don't leave room for other people and so it will be at 10am. Details will be in the newsletter.

A homework survey has been issued to the children. A mixed response was received and the same from parents. There is no consensus so we will need to gather all the information and decide what to do taking into account those who need time to decompress after school, individual circumstances etc.

Thank you to the parent council for Winter Wonderland. The children had a great time. They liked the stalls and the giant snow globe. I didn't love the one with all the paper in it. Think twice about that one for next year due to the mess.

The Local Authority's budget will be set on Wednesday. The school budget will be impacted regardless. There have been discussions around cutting teacher numbers. SNP have protected numbers over the last few years but the biggest share of the budget is spent on teachers. We are lucky in St Joseph's to have a large number of teachers who offer additional support, but we will need to see what comes back from budget.

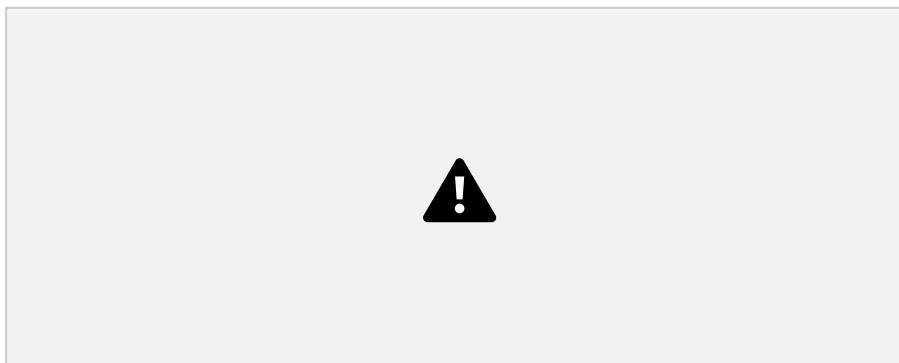
### **Diocesan Church Representative Report**

Dioceses and Bishop happy with all responses to RSHP consultation last year. Haven't had another meeting yet but this is due to take place soon. Fr. Stephen asked if we could continue promoting the primary events put on by Fr Morrison. Don't think anyone from St. Joseph's has ever gone along. Someone from Faith team going to continue to promote it. The numbers have been low.

Fr. Stephen would like to remind everyone to get along to mass every week with the children.

### **Treasurer's Update**

Since the last meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November, we have spent £1,012 and have raised £1,375. The current balance as of 26<sup>th</sup> February is £6,355. Details are shown below. Planned expenses for the 100 Square are around £220, leaving a balance of £6,135.



Of that ring fenced £3064 for playground equipment.

## **Social Secretary's Update**

100 Squares ongoing until Thursday. It should make about £770.

Next event is St. Joseph's day and provide sweets and snacks

Communion brunch is 21st April

Ms Hill has submitted the application for Summary Fayre which will take place on Saturday 8th June. Finalising the details over the next week and then details will be issued to parents.

## **Communications Update**

Connect workshop has taken place.

Guidance that was provided was having posters rather than heavy text. Idea is to make the communications from the parent council more visual and easier to see the fliers etc.

Have been considering a possible Facebook page but that has been put to the side to the moment as seems like communication network we use works well. Aimee Scullion has been working with Carolside Primary so in time, we will meet up with them and see what works with them. Could have it more like a pin board for flyers rather than a discussion board so social media pinboard as a possible suggestion.

Next PC annual questionnaire will ask what parents want. The Facebook page has been created but not in use at the moment.

Twitter - PC page already there - agreed to share tweets from sharing what school has tweeted already. Also looked at p1 parents coming up. QR code for them so they can see events coming up, PC bank account.

## **Laudato Si Update**

Lunch time Minnie Vinnies workshop (5 dates between now and the summer

<https://svp.org.uk/mini-vinnies/activities>

Website has video and activity content. Workshop will be during Lunch time and for 20 mins for P5-P7 (12:40-1pm)

29th Feb- Lent

15th Mar - Does God listen to our prayers (prayer space activity and build during school clean up day)?

23rd April - Have you seen Jesus?

23rd May- Does God have power on Earth?

2) School clean up activities for outdoor prayer space (Friday 15th March)

- prayer space teepee with clematis and slate art
- continue to keep existing places tidy and pretty

3) School parish links-

Walk to school week - Club with walk to school week (road safety committee) as a Laudato Si community initiative (protecting the environment). Different meeting points that families, children can meet in the morning and walk to school with a flag (Laudato Si logo, St Joseph's logo).

Possibility for prayer/rosary on school grounds before school and parents invited to coffee morning at church- liaising with the school on a plan for this.

Advertise diocesan retreat and Claire S volunteered to be contact person for parents interested.

## **UNIFORM UPDATE**

Our event on 3rd December raised £83 with us giving £45 to the church. Our most recent event on 2nd February raised £102 at the event with £50 going to the church, with a further £25 received via online donations for items purchased, £127 in total.

From the past two events we sorted through our enormous stock of school shirts, with these and our small remain stock of small shoes (which we haven't sold in over 18 months) being passed onto Jonny for him to donate to schools within the area in Glasgow where he works for distribution to families in need.

I should like to thank Karen and her team for all of their efforts and to mention that we had been ably assisted by S6 lad Paul & S3 girl Emily with our recent events. Their assistance has been much appreciated.

In terms of upcoming event dates, Karen and I agreed that as our next date is Sunday 7th April which is mid-way through the Easter hols and Wendy Johnson also won't be available to do teas and coffees, I have sought permission from Fr Stephen to have the hall on Sunday 28th April after 10am Mass instead.

Our next event dates therefore are Sundays 28th April and 2nd June both after 10am Mass. As always, donations are welcome anytime to the school office or by contacting myself directly to arrange to drop off at my house.

We would be particularly grateful to receive any donations of waterproof items suitable for the upcoming P7 residential trip.

If anyone has any uniform needs prior to our next event, or has any donations, questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at [stjosephspsuniforms@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephspsuniforms@gmail.com)

Leavers Hoodies

I'm delighted to report that I finally received a hoodie order from every child in p7, so with

some parents ordering 2 as keepsakes, 87 hoodies were ordered in total. I am expecting delivery end March beginning April will get the orders out asap upon delivery.

#### The current role of Uniform Rep

With the pre-loved events now being run by the faith team, I thought it a good time to provide a brief summary of the remaining duties of the uniform rep. Now that we no longer facilitate new uniform orders, the role is far less onerous than when I took it over from Katrina. That said, I've changed jobs recently and am particularly time poor, so if anyone within the faith team or out with would be keen to take over my role, even gradually, that would be welcome.

Maintenance of the uniform email account. Traffic is generally light and only busy during hoodie ordering & summer holidays with requests for pre-loved items. Outwith the start of term I perhaps get half a dozen requests or so in between our events from parents looking for items.

Collection of donations, from the school, getting these to the church, assisting with the events, use of personal bank account for online payments (which could easily be swapped to the pc account). This is only really onerous during the summer holidays. However, more thorough advertising of an early August event would help all of our parents and particularly our new p1 parents and upcoming p7 parents with their needs.

Assisting Mrs Wynn with p7 sized blazers is also important at the start of the new term, as she holds stock in her office for children who don't have one at all or who come into school without one on a given day for a transition trip or church visit.

Leavers hoodies - this is quite a bit job, however it could be treated as a stand-alone job for someone, I could assist with the next one and I will obviously see this years' order through to completion. Mrs Wynn mentioned to me recently that the school might prefer hoodies to be ordered up and available to children for the start of new year so children have them more for their transition trips.

Assisting with the P1 Induction. This could be undertaken by any pc member, there is just a need to ensure that a decent selection of p1 sized stock has been pulled together from the church and is brought to the event. Dealing with the annual commission payment which comes from the uniform supplier Gilmour Sports around March / April.

Maintenance of stock of ties at the school office. Ordering ties for the feeder nurseries for our new P1s.

Could advertise earlier to St. Ninian's for volunteers to assist with the pre-loved uniform events.

## **AOCB**

Ongoing Scottish Consultation on UNCRC raised and value of advertising opportunity to contribute to parent body. Will be promoted through class reps WhatsApp.

Need for audit of Parent Council accounts to be carried out highlighted with request that members seek to find someone willing and able to carry out said audit. Noting that they do not need to be an accountant but that they do need to be independent of the Parent Council.

Meeting brought to a close.