



# St Joseph's Primary Parent Council



## Minutes of Parent Council 16th September 2024

### St Joseph's Church Hall

#### Parent Attendees

Claire Campbell (Secretary), Jonathan Carroll (Chair), Aimee Scullion (Vice Chair), Nicola Hill (Treasurer), Samantha MacConnell (Vice Treasurer), Amy Dickson (Vice Secretary), Suzanne Kavanagh (Social Secretary), Angela Macklin (Vice Social Secretary), Karen Jordan (Laudato Si Secretary), Rosie McCluskey (Communications Secretary)

Mark Lilley, Julie Flaherty

**St Joseph's School Representatives:** Suzanne Martin (Head Teacher), Karen Wynne (Deputy Head), Clionagh Leddy (Principal Teacher), Hannah Addison (Principal Teacher), Maresa Morton, Lauren Ross (NQT)

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

**Opening Prayer** lead by Johnny Carroll

Introductions and Apologies

**Apologies:** Stacey Hogg, Claire Sweeney (Vice Laudato Si Secretary), Hilary Young

Minutes of previous meeting were circulated and approved

Proposed by **Samantha MacConnell**      Seconded by **Aimee Scullion**

#### Chair's Update

*See AGM minutes*

#### Head Teacher's Report

In staffing news, Mrs Addison is currently an acting Principal Teacher, Ms Lavery has moved to a school in East Kilbride and there are 2 maternity leaves: Mrs Parson, with Mrs Gould covering, and Mrs Stewart, with Mrs Convrey and Mrs McCardle covering. There are 2 NQTs this year - Mrs Morton in 5a and Miss Ross in 2a.

The senior leadership team are in the playground, dinner hall and covering bus duty each day. Mrs Martin reported that they enjoyed engaging and playing with the pupils. The children have been playing with toys and skipping ropes in the playground this term.

The school has received £18,000 from the Pupil Equity Fund - this is now a set amount and does not seem to be linked to the number of eligible PEF children in the school. Mrs Martin asked that we are all vigilant and let her know if there is a family which might benefit from additional support - this would be confidential and discrete. The PEF monies have been used to fund after school clubs again and outdoor learning at Offgrid, which has proved popular with the children. The clubs offered reflect the requests from children eligible for PEF and they are given preference when allocating places. Additional places are then allocated by teachers to pupils who the staff think might benefit most. There is no associated charge for the building for these clubs, but the PEF money covers the cost of staff. Some of the PEF money will be used to cover Lockerbie Manor for eligible children, which is now £500 per pupil.

Mrs Leddy is covering reading recovery and TRAIL. Due to the additional NQT, P7 have 3 teachers across the 2 classes. This is the largest year group and the additional support is showing results.

There are interviews scheduled for 2 additional Pupil Support Assistants.

The school roll has dropped again, in line with other local primaries (Carolside). This is a settled area with no new housing, maturing families have children moving to high school with fewer younger families at this time.

Attendance last year was 96%, a drop of 2% on the previous period. Families taking children out of school for long trips abroad and term-time holidays has been a factor in this drop.

There are no significant gaps in attainment and some additional support needs are being addressed. In line with the authority, over 97% are attaining above the National average.

All last year's P7 children received the Pope Francis Faith Award, regardless of their faith, with a majority receiving a Parish Commendation.

The My World triangle has been completed by all pupils and areas for support are being noted and targeted. The children are settled and routines have been established quickly. The children are happy to be back in school.

STEM subjects in term 1 have included doctors, a geneticist and a data analyst coming into class to speak to the children.

Mrs Martin extend her thanks to all parents for their support and generosity to the school following recent requests for donations of materials for STEM and the clean up day. The engagement from parents is appreciated and staff feel that support.

The SLT will look for more opportunities for parents to engage with the school. Following poor turn out in recent years, there will be no parent workshops this year. Feedback has indicated that parents like the newsletters and year group newsletters will be issued shortly.

Cluster workshops will be run again this year. A coding workshop was held in St Ninians by Make it APPen and the Dress Code club.

The School Improvement Plan will be available on Sway for ease of reading.

The new St Joseph's handbook had great reviews at the recent Parent Council Chairs group.

The ArchBishop Tartaglia tournament will be held on Sunday. If anyone is able to referee this would be appreciated.

Mrs Martin thanked parents for their feedback received via Google forms.

There will be no authority visit this year but the school is overdue an inspection by HMI - it has been 15 years since the last inspection. The school will get 2 weeks notice of the visit.

Thanks to those who were able to attend the Papal Nuncio mass. We are being encouraged to pray as a family and attend Mass regularly.

Mrs Martin is grateful to have such an engaged Parent Council as this is not a given in every school. When asked how we can continue to support she advised some of the trim trail is due to be removed at a cost of £800 as it is no longer safe for the children. Fundraising is ongoing to provide replacements and a maintenance fund.

Mrs Martin and the staff had no objection to the Parent Council's proposal to reduce the number of meetings from 5 to 4 each school year. It was agreed that the May meeting should be held in person with a social aspect.

## Church Representative Report

-Diocese had a successful visit from the Papal Nuncio who wished to encourage all Catholic families to attend Mass and pray together.

- Diocese plans a continuation of the Travelling Nativity and the Travelling Rosary.

-Next Diocesan Parent Forum, Mon 16th Sep, all welcome.

## Treasurer's Update

Since our last meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, we have spent £3,134 and have raised £2,842. The current balance is £7,637. We had previously agreed to ringfence £3,664 which was raised to fund new playground equipment. We also committed to ringfence a further £1,000 to be used for maintenance of the current equipment. This would leave us with £2,973 available for other expenses.

<b>Opening balance as at 3rd June 2024</b>	<b>£7,929</b>	
Easy Fund Raising	£94	
<b>Parent donations</b>	<b>£225</b>	
Preloved Uniform Donations	£166	
<b>PC Expenses</b>		<b>-£266</b>
Summer Fayre	£2,357	<b>-£1,557</b>
<b>P7 Leavers</b>		<b>-£638</b>
Wild Week		<b>-£673</b>
<b>Revised balance as at 16th September 2024</b>	<b>£7,637.24</b>	

## Social Secretary's Update

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Academic year 2023-2024

Total money raised £7,831 – Expenditure approx. £5,110 for the fundraisers and on Annual Commitments - P1 welcome, Halloween Howl, Winter Wonderland, St Joseph's Day, Communion Brunch, Wild Week and P7 disco.

Currently we have outstanding playground equipment, which is priced at £4,000 plus removal. Moving into this year we have raised approx £2700 through fundraisers.

Throughout the Academic year we, the social committee have accumulated Annual Commitments (detailed above and below), most of these commitments are Events which do not generate funds, therefore additional fundraising events take place. In total we are involved with a minimum of eleven fundraising activities or Event. Additional involvement/activities may occur.

Academic year 2024-2025

Annual Commitments & status.

P1 Welcome Night September Event took place on 12th September and was reasonably well attended.

Halloween October Fundraiser - To take place 24th October with Halloween Howl on 25th October

Winter Wonderland December Event – to take place on 19th December, the school request payment for this event, however, the Parent Council contributes

St Joseph's Day March Event

Summer fundraiser - to discuss incorporating this with the Jubilee event

Communion Brunch April Event

Wild Week June Event – the school request payment for this event, however, the Parent Council contributes.

P7 Disco June Event.

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, we would like to host if agreeable

Sponsored bounce - November

A school day fundraiser TBC - February

A fundraiser to coincide with the Jubilee event

Next Social Committee meeting will be held October 2024

## **Laudato Si/Faith Group**

The parent Laudato Si group have continued to support the school through running Minnie Vinnies once a month for P6/7s during lunch break.

This term we have focussed on supporting our local community through prayer and acts of kindness.

April Session

Bonnyton Care home and its residents were identified as a local group the children would like to support. Through discussion, the children were able to empathize with residents (loneliness, not

being able to go out etc). We used the session to make cards and write messages that would cheer up residents.

#### May Session

Along with Miss Lavery and a few parent volunteers, we took the children to visit the care home. The children prepared a few songs and sang them to the residents. They then distributed their cards and spent time talking to the residents. They heard many stories of residents' younger days and work which is different to work today. The residents loved how engaging the children were and asked for a few more songs and another visit soon.

In addition the parent Laudato Si faith group have assisted in ground clean up days and maintaining the prayer garden. We have also supported and run the various Preloved Uniform events

#### **AOCB**

No matters discussed.