

## **Minutes of Parent Council Meeting 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026, St Joseph's Primary School**

Present

School representatives: Mrs Martin, Mrs Addison, Mrs Leddy, Mrs Wynne

Parent Representatives: Mark Lilley, Samantha MacConnell, Annie Crowley, Mohammed Zabir, Nicola Hill, Karen Jordan, Aimee Scullion, Amy Dickson

Apologies: Angela Macklin, Suzanne Kavannagh

**Approval of last year's Minutes proposed** – Karen Jordan, Mark Lilley seconded

**Chair – update by Amy Dickson on behalf of PC**

AD attended the recent PC Chairs meeting with East Renfrewshire Council which took place at Eastwood High.

Had presentations from various members of the Council. First, was one relating to the performance of East Renfrewshire schools and levels of attainment and attendance. The second related to Enjoy East Renfrewshire and, in particular, the provision of water safety lessons to the primary school. Due to a combination of the increased costs/lack of budget and the time taken out of school to attend these lessons, a large number of primary schools have stopped attending the lessons. There is to be a proposal in the new Government budget for increased funding in relation to these lessons but, unclear at present, how much this will be and what the conditions will be around the money being provided. Unfortunately, there was insufficient time to hear the presentation called “ Contributing to School Improvement” as some of the representatives present were keen to have a lengthy discussion around the use of Smart Phones in schools. A presentation was provided by the Council following up on a survey that had been carried out on that issue and the outcome of the survey.

Out of approximately 50,000 possible stakeholders who could have responded to the survey, only 8% did. Based on the data obtained from the survey, the Council is proposing a policy which means that there would be a total ban on Smart Phones for children in primary schools. In relation to secondary schools, they are to be kept in the pupils' bags during class time, unless the teacher specifically asks the pupils to bring their phones out of their bags for the purposes of learning in the class. There will be a working group going forward consisting of teachers, educational psychologists and a parent representative to assist with monitoring how the policy works.

**Head teacher's update**

Staffing: 2 members absent. Mrs Fry and Mrs Gray. Internal cover is being used. Mrs Redmond covering. Mrs Gray broke her wrist but hopefully be back after Easter holidays. Mrs Downs and Parsons have taken on some extra days. Mrs Convery is also coming back to do a few days.

Has been some disruption to nurture groups and learning support as teachers having to cover classes. All current permanent staff will remain with us.

Won't be having an NQT next year due to budget constraints.

Appointed a new temporary pupil support assistant called Grace Valentine who is due to start after the Easter holidays.

30<sup>th</sup> April interview in respect of Gold award for Rights Respecting Pupils .

Standardised assessments for primary 1, 4 and 7 taking place week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> April. That window runs for 6 weeks. Children will be assessed on those years online. Don't give results out to parents. Any specific concerns would have been raised with parents previously. They don't throw up any surprises. Our children obtain higher than national average for majority of them. Still some who attain below but most well above.

Next term will be a focus on expressive arts.

Children enjoyed Come See Me Learn. Had great turn out from the parents.

Summer term p6 will be doing the Mural trails in Glasgow. They use app. and it guides them round the trail. Mrs Wynne usually goes too. Fabulous trip and highlight not on arts but also social awareness, public transport etc.

Lot of children had trips this term. P1 to pollock park to see highland cows is after Easter. Vikingar and Science centre trips have taken place.

Wild Week is back but is costing more. Have asked parents to pay £15 per child as a result. Only 2 parents have said that too expensive due to having to pay for more than 1 child. Only 148 responses to the survey regarding the cost. £1000 is coming from school's own budget.

Mrs Addison advising that, for future years, could potentially look at spreading the payments on Parent Pay so that parent can pay it up over the year rather than in June.

Cost of Offgrid has gone up to £60 per session. It has become unaffordable for our PERF fund. Spoke to children in Pupil Focus group. Told them not going in 3<sup>rd</sup> term and they weren't happy. Need to look at how still get access but in manageable way. Other options are being explored including reducing the number of sessions or alternative locations such as Busby Glen but additional risk assessments would be required there.

Regarding the PERF funding for next year, it's unclear how much longer the school will have it. Stayed static despite more pupils being entitled to it. Each child entitled to £1500 but allocation for children go to children's old school, if join us during the year. Cost of everything has gone up. PERF will be discussed at next PC meeting. Not getting as much for money as we are when first getting it. Want to ensure outdoor learning continues. Our children love being outside. Children have learned outside is fun and don't want to lose that.

School reports will be issued on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April. There will be a delay for some classes due to staff absences.

Have First Communions on 9<sup>th</sup> May and Confirmations on 20<sup>th</sup> May.

The Day of Action was a great success. Thanks to the parents who helped out. Next date for the diary is 27<sup>th</sup> May.

2026/2027- focus group volunteers re: how to move school forward for school improvement plan. Will send out Google Form. Often not many people fill it out. If willing to take part, parents should send an email and say will take part in focus group. Will take 3 parents. If can let Mrs Martin know who would like to be involved.

New curriculum 2028- will introduce to frame work once ready.

The proposed increase of non-contact teaching was based around manifesto campaign and said would reduce contact by 1.5 hours. What they were saying, concerns about that impact on children, SLT and

on budgets unless it's fully funded. Government needs to pay for teachers to come in. 18 hours for extra teacher. If not, management team will need to go in, and additional groups won't be able to take place. Agreed in principal but still going through the process and strikes called off.

### **Social secretary update – provided by Karen Jordan obo social committee**

Winter wonderland workshops and organised St. Joseph's treats.

Upcoming events- Communion brunch now handled by Laudato Si committee.

P7 disco booked and DJ and team to be sorted out nearer the time.

Fundraiser next term for sponsored bounce if can get a date. Office to be contacted to check dates for gym hall.

More fundraisers will be required to be organised for next year. Any parents interested in helping or with ideas for fundraisers should contact the parent council.

### **Laudato Si update –Karen Jordan**

March 2026 - Laudato Si update

#### Eco uniform hub

- £145 made from last uniform event in church hall
- Uniforms have all been sorted and we are in need of new stock of girls 9-12 all uniforms, Boys 7-8 trousers, 8-12- shirts and jumpers
- Events planned are parents night event and P1 induction event ( 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026)

#### Ground clean-up day

- prayer garden space cleaned up and all slate removed as lots broken
- Tree arch being trimmed to better used the space
- Planting- new plants and children planted sunflower seeds in pots to be replanted at next clean-up day.
- Donation of a bench for area been received
- Looking for slabs to be added and painted by children as next event

#### Communion brunch

- hall booked and no charge as it's a sacramental event
- Team being arranged to help
- Liaise with Suzanne about chair covers and Costco food.

Dates for family mass – no more for this school year. Mrs Addison will double check

AS – do a uniform event after mass in June this year. KJ- can organise. Normally can do at coffee morning after that.

### **Treasurer's Update- Nicola Hill**

Since the last meeting in January we have spent £557 (PVG Payments & St Joseph's Day) with Income of £432 (Easy Fundraising & Parent Donations).

Our Current Balance is £7,779.30

School is requesting from the parent council the sum of £7050 for new reading books for primary 1-3 but this sum can probably reduce by about £600. The new books would be provided by Big Cat that OLM also use. Mrs Leddy went along and spoke them. Their attainment is lower but that due to a number of factors. Want to order the new material prior to summer so that it is ready for next year.

The sponsored bounce previously raised nearly £1000. It would be helpful to make clear in the communications about the bounce what the money is going to and the shift towards curriculum and improving reading attainment.

SMC – advising that the PC needs to work out what events that the PC has that is coming up and the financial obligations that we have in relation to those.

AS- if there are not parents who are willing to organise and assist with the parent council events and assist with the fundraising then the events won't be able to continue in the future.

NH- SK might have breakdown of cost. Can look at it again as part of the document. SMC says happy to assist with that.

AS – think maybe if trying to entice new people into social committee. Separate from PC. Don't want to be in PC. In our recruitment process, they don't have to come to meetings. Just one person feeding the info here. Low commitment role and then those who are good at organising parties etc, might be able to entice them if not the PC.

AC- worth considering like class reps where more of a requirement to have ½ members to get it rejuvenated and that might help as short term measure and see the positives of the social committee.

KJ – last year, Suzanne set up a social committee WhatsApp. That's someone from every class for Halloween Disco etc. it does exist. Noone wants to take on the whole role of Social Committee convener. If it's broken down into smaller parts and groups to organise each events then it is less daunting.

AOCB

- Next fundraiser – sponsored bounce- discussed above. Provisional date for May.
- Mobile phones-

Aimee and Annie met with Yvonne Bamford, chair of Carolside PC, on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Representatives from Kirkhill and Mearns Primary also attended.

Yvonne spoke through Carolside's PC smartphone process and strategy:

- Sent a survey to parent body;
  - Survey results suggested a large number of parents were open to hearing about delaying smartphones for their children;
  - Hosted smartphone information evening with tech experts and other guests;
  - Share a monthly tech newsletter with their parent body; and
  - Shared Smartphone Free Childhood website and suggested parents/carers signed up if they were in agreement with the ethos of SFC.
- SFC Scottish leaderboard - Carolside are 3<sup>rd</sup> in Scotland with 173 pacts. Eaglesham and Netherlee are 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, respectively. Other schools at top of leaderboard include Jordanhill School, Glasgow Academy and George Watson's.
  - Considerations for our own parent body?

Mrs Wynne- up to about 4 years ago, no child at St Joseph's had a mobile phone. It's of huge concern to us.

Mrs Addison – Jonathan Hull did authority re: parental controls. Limit screen time. Where is information coming from. I'm sure he'd run it again. It was the 4 cluster schools only 8 parents after school. That was on Digital Safety. Didn't seem to make a difference re: uptake. Very small cohort of parents.

AS- what I'd like to see is step before that, being parents can make decision. Would also like to be social norm that don't start high school with a phone.

Each family has own values etc. All have own values/opinion.

AC – was at meeting as well. Refreshing to get the information. Just starting conversation that don't need to go down that route to go do with. Difficult to get people along to talk. WhatsApp could be used for that. To alert people to the website and to the pact and that resources on the website.

Addison- can signpost it on school website.

AC- can put it in PC council WhatsApp group can agree how to proceed. I can set the WhatsApp up. All have to say is, there are few parents who are interested please fee free to join and discussions can take place there.

KJ – not saying no to communication.

AS- reminder to parents can join it and invitation. Is a contentious issue.

### **Edu spot – Mark Lilley**

Kids are listed on it and school is listed on it and St Ninians' is on it. It's a place where all school emails go. It's an app. You can report school absence on it etc.

St. Ninians' use this already. Mrs Addison and Mrs Wynne advising that it is handy you get a notification to download but there's probably a cost involved. That's why the school doesn't send text messages out. Can have a look into it. If St Ninian's use it must have passed GDPR etc.

Mrs Addison to speak to their IT co-ordinator about it.

Next PC meeting TBC.