



THE PARENT COUNCIL OF ST NINIAN'S HIGH SCHOOL

MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2025

Present: Clare Whyte (Joint Chair)
Dougie Wilson (Joint Chair)
Anne Marie O'Brien (Vice Chair)
Pauline Murphy
Mairead Brophy
Mo Wright
Gail McGrane
Lorna McIntosh
Saana Shahid
Joanne Osuilleabhain
Michela Pagliocca-Carr
Aundrie Wilmott
Jacqueline Stewart
Stuart Reid
Alok Kulkarni
Steven Watson
Gerry McLaughlin (Church representative)

Carol Falchney
Julie Flaherty
Cristina Sheefer
Lynsey O'Dwyer
Mark Lilley
Joanne Logan
Anbazhyan Kanniyappan
Katrina Adams
Samantha Macconnell
Mukesh Poddar
Neha Kulkarni
Meenal Poddar
Daniel McKendry

Apologies: Chris McLaughlin
Jennifer Clare Abalo

School: G O'Neil (Head Teacher) C McCrea C Boyle

1 **Welcome / Opening Prayer**

The newly appointed Office Bearers ("OB") welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Parent Council for the academic year 2025/26. A particular welcome was offered to the parents of new S1 children.

DW led the meeting in an opening prayer.

New OB expressed, on a personal and collective basis, huge thanks to outgoing office bearers, Jacqueline Stewart, Stuart Reid and Aundrie Wilmott. Their time,

commitment and leadership had been hugely appreciated by all members of the Parent Council.

2 **Attendance / Apologies**

All those in attendance had been asked to sign up to the parent council What's App group where information including agendas were circulated. Apologies were noted.

3 **Adjustment/Approval of Previous Minutes**

The draft Minutes of the Parent Council meeting held on 16 June 2025 were tabled and approved with the minor addition of reference to the construction management plan, to be approved by East Renfrewshire Council, for the Eastwood Park leisure development.

4 **Head Teacher's Report**

- a) **Exam Results** Mr O'Neil provided a comprehensive presentation on the school exam results 2025. This covered outcomes at national 4, national 5, Higher, Advanced Higher and Vocational levels. The results were hugely impressive and reflected high achievement across the school.

The parent council expressed its' thanks to school staff and its' congratulations to all the young people.

- b) Mr O'Neil also covered the following issues as part of his update, many of which are set out in the most recent school communication issued on 8 September along with the school calendar for 2025/26.

- The increase in annual pupil attendance with examples of how this was encouraged across the school. Ensuring high pupil attendance would continue to be a focus for 2025/26
- Loss of water supply at start of term coinciding with high temperatures hence purchase of significant supply of water bottles
- School trips including Salamanca, Rome and CERN nuclear research centre
- Settling start for this year's S1 intake
- Refurbishment of boys' and girls' toilets
- Updated mobile phone guidance. Reference was also made to a mobile phone questionnaire issued by East Renfrewshire Council which can be accessed and completed here <https://getinvolved.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/mobile-phone-use-in-schools>
- Evidence of increase in vaping which will be an issue for further action in school
- Littering issues, specifically, in wooded area to side of school
- Success of this year's inaugural Mass
- School pupil numbers – the annual census is due and expected numbers are between 2,010 and 2,018. This would be reported back to a future meeting with the opportunity to consider the impact of such high numbers

Reference was also made to the re-laying of the football pitch which should be back in use in a couple of weeks.

5 **Future Agenda Items for the Parent Council**

A suggested list of potential items for the parent council had been circulated with the agenda. DW emphasised that items can be raised by speaking to any of the office bearers, can be communicated via the parent council communication channels including the What's App group and to the parent council email pcstniniangiffnock@gmail.com

In terms of the potential items, they were referenced as follows:

- **The Friends of St Ninian's** – this would be picked up at a future meeting by the Head Teacher / Mr Cumming
- **School communication** – given that East Renfrewshire Council had ceased use of X they would now be using Instagram as an alternative social media platform. It was considered that the parent council should follow same.
- **Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis** – the parent council noted the Diocesan events. The school advised that they had highlighted this through school prayers, assemblies and in RE classes. This would continue to be a key message to pupils recognising the relevance of Blessed Carlo to young people
- **Eastwood Park Leisure Development** – this would feature as a regular item with DW to contact Mark Ratter about attending either the October or November meeting of the parent council to provide a future update coinciding with the start of the actual construction work
- **Scottish Government Consultations** – it was intended that the parent council would be kept updated on any relevant Scottish Government consultations. Reference was made to recent issues with regard to the school policy on restraint, seclusion and physical intervention. This would be discussed with the Head Teacher for any feedback to the parent council.
- **PISA Assessment** – an update was noted on the school's involvement in the current PISA assessments.

6 **Parent Question**

A parent had submitted a question about use of the Achieve Platform or similar to highlight pupil achievements. This question had been shared with Mr O'Neil. An update was provided on current arrangements to highlight achievement, and further feedback would be shared at a future meeting.

7 **AOCB**

The pending retirals of Fr Hill, St Vincent's, and Fr Michael, St Gabriel's, were noted with recognition of their contribution to the school and their local Parish communities. Given such retirals, the Vocations Mass being held at St Mirin's Cathedral on Thursday 11 September was highlighted.

Mr O'Neil, on behalf of the school, expressed his gratitude for the work and support of the outgoing office bearers.

8 **Closing Prayer**

The meeting concluded with the school prayer.

The next meeting of the parent council would take place in the school on **Monday 6 October 2025 at 7p.m.**

