



THE PARENT COUNCIL OF ST NINIAN'S HIGH SCHOOL

MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 NOVEMBER 2025

Present:	Clare Whyte (Joint Chair) (CW)		
	Dougie Wilson (Joint Chair) (DW)		
	Anne Marie O'Brien (Vice Chair)		
	Jennifer Clare Abalo	Katrina Adams	
	Mairead Brophy	Mark Lilley	
	Samantha Macconnell	Daniel McKendry	
	Christopher McLaughlin	Deborah Monini	
	Lynsey O'Dwyer	Joanne O'Suilleabhain	
	Michela Pagliocca-Carr	Meenal Poddar	
	Mukesh Poddar	Sanaa Shahid	
	Jacqueline Stewart	Steven Watson	
Apologies:	Julie Flaherty	Joanne Logan	
	Gail McGrane	Lorna McIntosh	
	Gerry McLaughlin (Church representative)		
	Pauline Murphy	Aundrie Wilmott	
	Mo Wright		
School:	Gerry O'Neil (Head Teacher)	Mark Gallagher	(Depute Head
Teacher)	Jennifer Wilson	(Depute Head Teacher)	

- 1 **Opening Prayer**
DW led the meeting in the school prayer.
- 2 **Attendance / Apologies**
DW welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted.
- 3 **Adjustment/Approval of Previous Minutes**
The draft Minutes of the Parent Council meeting held on 6 October 2025 were tabled and approved.

4 Matters Arising / Action Log

There were no matters arising not otherwise on the agenda.

An action log was presented highlighting the agreed action points for the Parent Council. CW advised the purpose of the action log, that it would be used as a 'live' document, reported to each meeting and updated according to decisions made by the PC.

5 Eastwood Park Leisure Development

DW introduced Mark Ratter, Director of Education, Steven Renwick, Major Capital Projects Manager and Colin Hutton, senior communications officer, East Renfrewshire Council and thanked them for their attendance.

The Parent Council (PC) had received 2 previous presentations and updates on the Leisure Development, and it had been agreed that there would be one further presentation to coincide with the start of the formal construction works.

S Renwick provided a comprehensive presentation providing:

- an update on progress since the last update in June including mediation works undertaken
- the project timeline and key activities with centre opening scheduled for autumn 2027 and existing centre demolition by autumn 2028
- an overview of the construction management arrangements including traffic management
- details of the associated community investment programme including apprenticeships, work experience programme, local business support, and support for local community groups.

Questions were raised about traffic management, timescales and communication.

Mrs Wilson provided a comprehensive update on benefits arising directly to the school throughout the construction period. This included practical learning experiences in design and construction, careers input and advice, and work experience. Opportunities would continue to be accessed and progressed throughout the duration of the development. Post-construction dialogue had also taken place between the school and leisure trust about access to the facility, in particular, the theatre for the school show.

Points were also raised about minimising the impact on the school both during day-to-day operations and at key times, such as exams.

The contractor would work to ensure as limited impact as possible on the school including timings for deliveries and construction traffic, etc. There would be ongoing

and regular communications between the contractor and school enabling suitable arrangements for any particular circumstances.

The PC were then shown a 'fly through' video of the anticipated completed project, both external and internal. The visual presentation was very much appreciated by those in attendance and encouraged a short discussion on architectural preferences!

In conclusion, it was acknowledged that, during the construction and subsequent demolition period, the main communications would be between the contractor and the school. The Head Teacher would provide updates as appropriate to the PC as well as the wider parent forum through established communication channels.

East Renfrewshire Council also have a communications strategy in place and that would be launching soon for the wider community.

It was agreed that, should it be helpful or necessary, a further update could be provided to the Parent Council at a key point during the construction phase.

Mr Ratter, Mr Renwick and Mr Hutton were thanked for their presentation and attendance and then left the meeting.

6 Social Justice in Education in East Renfrewshire – Framework and Strategy 2026-29

This issue had had been subject to an initial discussion at East Renfrewshire Council's Parent Equalities Forum held on 17 September 2025 and reported to our meeting on 6 October 2025. At that meeting, Mr Gallagher provided an informative overview of how social justice was lived, delivered and implemented in our school, reflecting the guidance within the Charter for Catholic Schools.

The Council are looking for feedback on the current social justice framework and strategy prior to drafting a revised framework and strategy for 2026-29. The framework is intended to provide practical guidance to schools, teachers and early years practitioners on social justice in line with legislation, including the Equality Act 2010 and the incorporation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into Scots law. The General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS) identifies social justice as one of the core professional values of Scottish education with 'the view that everyone deserves equal economic, political and social rights and opportunities'.

It had been agreed that the Parent Council (PC) would consider the current framework at this meeting with a view to providing any comment and any suggested updates/amendments to the current framework.

Reference was made to the limited opportunity given to provide input to the 2023-26 framework and strategy and a letter submitted at that time by this PC.

There was a consensus that the PC should provide input emphasising that any framework and strategy requires to formally acknowledge and recognise the Charter for Catholic Education and associated guidance and its' core message of social justice.

Discussion took place on various aspects including the Charter for Catholic Schools, guidance from SCES (Scottish Catholic Education Service), LGBT inclusive teaching, decolonisation, and a general discussion reflecting a variety of views on what we mean by social justice. At its' heart, though, was the need for love and understanding.

Based on the above, the PC agreed that a clear and concise communication should be submitted to ERC based on the following fundamental points:

- the need to formally recognise the place and role of catholic schools in our community and that be explicitly stated and formally reflected in the Social Justice Framework for Education in East Renfrewshire
- that guidance issued through the Charter for Catholic Schools in Scotland on social teaching was fundamental to the school's approach to social justice
- our school's commitment and track record in its' lived delivery and implementation of social justice across our school community

It was noted that, should time allow, our draft communication to ERC should be shared with Fr Matthew Carlin, who has done a deal of research on this issue.

DW also advised that he had contacted ERC's education service about the overall timetable for preparing the new framework and strategy 2026-29 but advised that input to the review was welcome up to the end of this calendar year.

It was agreed that CW would draft a communication to ERC and share with PC members prior to the next meeting. This would allow for any comments before formally signing off our submission at our next meeting.

7 Head Teacher's Update

Mr O'Neil provided a general update including:

- Music from the Movies concert held on 6 November, which the parents present who attended the event said was wonderful
- S4 Work Experience week had been undertaken at the end of October
- Prelim exams for Music, at all levels, had been undertaken
- Halloween Discos had taken place
- SNHS pupil attendance at COP30 Mass for Creation held at the Cathedral in Glasgow on 10 November
- Standardised Testing in S2 was ongoing
- Excellence 7 Equity visit from ERC and other schools
- Young STEM Leaders visited OLM and St Joseph's primary schools
- St Clare's primary school are the first to start their two P7 cluster working visits
- Flu Vaccinations are scheduled for 10-12 November
- Clothing donations to the Frederic Ozanam Centre
- UCAS FastTrack Interview Evening
- Social Media Parents' Information Evening to be arranged in the new year
- A Mathematics Collaborative Improvement Visit had taken place

8 **Office Holder's Report:**

- (a) Archdiocese of Glasgow meeting PC chairs and church representatives – 5 November: CW and DW had attended. The meeting had provided an overview of roles, communication arrangements with the Archdiocese and the opportunity for some general cross school discussion. **CW and DW had agreed an action to arrange a follow up discussion with our church representative and D Graham, the Church rep on ERC's Education committee.**
- (b) Diocese of Paisley – Centred on Christ October 2025 – circulated and noted acknowledging that an overview had been provided at our previous meeting.

9 **Parent Question(s) – none received**

10 **AOCB**

The following events were highlighted and would be communicated via the PC

Instagram: Tuesday 18 November at 7pm – Cluster Mass – St Joseph's, Clarkston

Thursday 27 November at 8pm – Catholic Education Week parent reflection evening – St Joseph's Parish Church Hall, Clarkston

A question was raised about accessing the Achieve platform and an issue that had arisen about student payment. The school were unaware of any issue and had paid the relevant licence fees. This would be followed up directly by the parent with the school, to clarify any issue.

A question was asked about musical input from the school to SPUC's (Society for the Protection of Unborn Children) recent annual Mass. Mr O'Neil advised he was unaware of any request having been made.

11 **Closing Prayer**

The meeting concluded with a prayer marking the Month of the Holy Souls and Remembrance.

The next meeting of the parent council would take place in the school on **Monday 8 December 2025 at 7p.m.**