



THE PARENT COUNCIL OF ST NINIAN'S HIGH SCHOOL

MINUTES OF PARENT COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2025

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

- 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 10 November 2025 were tabled and approved.

4 **Matters Arising / Action Log**

There were no matters arising not otherwise on the agenda.

The action log was presented highlighting the agreed action points for the Parent Council. An update was provided on the following matters:

- **Children (Withdrawal from Religious Education and Amendment of UNCRC Compatibility Duty) (Scotland) Bill:** The Bill had progressed through Stage 1 following Parliamentary debate and decision on 25 November. The deadline for amendments was 10 December with those to be considered by the lead committee on 16 December. The Bill, as amended, would then be published following Stage 2 proceedings. Further updates would be shared with the parent council as the matter progressed through the Parliamentary stages.
- DW/CW/AMO'B would **arrange to meet with D Graham**, the church representative on East Renfrewshire Council's education committee, during January and in advance of our next meeting.
- **Parental Involvement and Engagement** – a further PC Newsletter would be prepared for issue in January 2026, and updates will be undertaken to the parent council section on the school website

5 **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 (ERC)'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.

ERC are looking for feedback on the current social justice strategy prior to drafting a revised strategy for 2026-29. The strategy sits alongside the existing social justice framework. The framework and strategy provided 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'.

The Parent Council (PC) considered the current framework and strategy at its' last meeting with a view to providing any comment and any suggested updates/amendments.

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.

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

CW had drafted and circulated a letter on that basis for PC approval.

It was agreed that the draft letter to ERC be submitted to M Ratter, Director of Education, and shared with cluster primary schools and St Luke's High School Parent Council.

7 Head Teacher's Update

(a) Friends of St Ninian's

Mr Cumming provided an update on the re-establishment of Friends of St Ninian's. An initial meeting had been held and agreed to organise a race night. Following discussion, it was agreed that the initial indicative date for the race night be changed. A follow up meeting would be held on 8 January 2026 to firm up on the date and arrangements for a race night. The focus would be on bringing the school community together while also raising some funds for the school.

(b) Mr O'Neil also provided a general update on a range of issues and events over recent weeks including:

- Cluster Mass held on 18 November
- Daily weekday Mass during Advent
- S4 prelims and parents night
- S5/S6 parents night
- School ceilidhs
- School Trips for 2026 with 2 planned trips to Rome
- Feedback from the Paris Trip involving a group of S5 students
- Further development of the use of Achieve learning platform and the associated Succeed online study help platform
- Forthcoming school events, specifically the Christmas service and concert being held on 18 December

Mr O'Neil also provided an update on attendance recognising the recent impact caused by a Flu upsurge. He emphasised the importance of attendance up to the 18-day Christmas/New Year holiday period.

A question was raised about the RE Curriculum. It was advised that the curriculum for each subject was listed on the school website for general information and reference.

The issue about S4 work experience in the Sheriff Court and the inability to access reference documentation in advance of the placement had been down to IT issues due to both the volume and security of the documentation.

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

9 **AOCB** - DW thanked everyone for their attendance and school staff for their input and support. He wished all young people, parents, carers and staff a happy and peaceful Christmas.

10 **Closing Prayer**

The meeting concluded with a prayer marking the period of Advent.

The outcome of the Christmas Quiz was revealed.

The next meeting of the parent council would now take place in the school on the rescheduled date of **Monday 2 February 2026 at 7p.m.**