

## Parent Council Meeting Minutes

8<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Attendees	Apologies
Claire Logue (Chair)	Pearl
Charisse Oneill (Secretary and Treasurer)	
Aynsleigh Ponsonby	
Brenda McGinley	
Emily Reid	
Jackie Lowe	
Sylvia Addetorro	
Cecile Mondeke	
Daniella	
Anne Barratt	
Father Eddie	
Miss Garrett	
Miss McLaughlin	
Miss Martin	
Miss Lynch	

Claire welcomed everyone to the meeting, with one apology from Pearl.

There has been a change in role bearers, with Emily Reid stepping down as Co-chair. She will continue to be part of the parent council.

Miss Martin talked the parent council through the Education Perspective Report and shared a copy of the self evaluation against the indicators 1.3 and 2.3

The indicators are evaluated as part of the HMIe inspection, which took place recently. The aim of the school is to get very good across all areas of assessment. Feedback from the assessors was very positive and this has been maintained since the inspection.

School will continue to move forward from the inspection and focus on Numeracy, Literacy and Health and Wellbeing.

One area that school are assessed on is an indicator for Reflection and Assessment.

As a school the focus is now on restorative approaches to conflict and behavioural issues. The approach to reward and recognition within the school has changed, with the focus being on a more wholistic approach rather than punitive action.

Over the last few years we have seen a reduction in negative behaviours across the school.

Miss Garrett has been working across the school to provide a cohesive approach across the school to enable teachers to give effective feedback on work and learning so that children understand where they are in their learning journey.

As a starting point teachers have been looking at what is feedback, what do the children understand and get from it. Focus groups with teachers from different year groups and experience levels have been working together to ensure that there are templates and frameworks across the school so that all teachers are feeding back in the same way so as

children move up through school they have consistent feedback and understand areas that they are working well in and areas they need to focus on.

There was some discussion with the PC about what parents would like to know about their child's learning journey. CO suggested that parents should have access to the topics that children are working on in each primary / term so that they can talk about the same topics at home.

An action from the meeting is for Mrs Martin to set up a smaller working groups to discuss ideas for parental engagement in learning.

## 2024 Update

- **School role** sits at 467 (school only) with the intake of P1s capped at 75 this year.  
This size of school role continues to cause pressure on shared spaces, there is no ICT lab, no changing rooms already and no dedicated nurture room. The school struggles for appropriate spaces for breakout rooms for teaching small groups with additional needs.
- **PEF** continues to be used to fund additionality within the school (teachers and Dave), however there are resources review meetings coming up and Mrs Martins hope is that there will be no changes in teachers, although not all of the staff are permanent to St Francis.
- For this year there has also been a change in in approach to whole staff training with everyone receiving the same training such as LILT and Pedagogy.
- Teacher's hours are agreed well in advance however, many are taking on leadership roles and working with groups of children on topics such as music, digital leaders, and making young leader groups, out with their planned hours.
- **Language ambassadors** are something that school are considering introducing. Children with an additional language could use this to work with families who are new to the school and have an initial language barrier.
- **STEAM room** - this year school have created a STEAM room by repurposing what they already have due to funding. This is a dedicated room for children with complex learning needs and additional support needs. Sensory room with tents and sensory equipment.

The focus is on play based learning, some children spend most of their time in this room with the ultimate aim of them being able to spend more of their day in a normal classroom.

Curriculum is tailored with lots of support, through existing support for learning staff, teachers and principal teachers. For older children the room is used for social interaction and storytelling.

If the need for the room increases then there may be a requirement for an additional ASL teacher.

- **WRITE on track programme** - St Francis are part of a pilot programme by GCC which focuses on tools for writing. It has been implemented in P2,3,4 and 5 so far. The purpose of the programme is to ensure that children have the tools for writing, that is sentence structure, punctuation, print etc. It has been really successful which is evidenced in the children's school work.
- **Laudato Si** - The programme began last year but has really been embedded into school this year with a framework agreed. It continues with children through to P7. Co asked if school could share more information with parents, a leaflet on Showbie possible. Mrs Martin suggested information stalls at parents night.
- **School Minibus** will arrive in March - this is a 17 seater vehicle with 1 wheelchair space. Plans to use it in term 4 for trips to the park or the beach.
- **New Library** - Miss Garrett applied for a grant from the literacy trust and the school were awarded £9,000. The cloakroom area currently used by P1 will be converted to an open library. It has been designed as an engaging space with soft furnishings to allow the children to relax and read for pleasure.

As part of the aware school will be supplied with 4000 books. All classes will get time each week to visit the library.

It should be completed by the end of April.

## **P1 Inductions**

Miss Lynch gave an update on the plans for this years P1 Inductions. The transition group, which is made up of the P1 teachers, Miss Garrett and Miss McLaughlin are evaluating and changing how the transitions happen.

They will be making contact with local nurseries and planning visits in February and March. They will spend time with the children moving to St Francis and do assessments with literacy and numeracy and take feedback from their Key Workers on development and any support that may be required with the transition or at school.

There has been an increase in the children who require enhanced transition and for any children this applies to the Deputes will meet with the parents and any agencies that are involved to make a plan.

In April the P6 buddies will be selected and be given a project theme to work on with the nursery children.

There will be a parents information session in June.

### **Dave (Community Development Worker) Update**

WAG event at the end of 2023 was really successful. There was great interaction from families and an opportunity for children and adults to showcase their culture. It was an inclusive event and a great way to share knowledge.

As part of establishing links within the community the School Choir visited the local sheltered housing and sang both old and new songs to the residents. They have asked that this becomes an annual event.

Our nursery children are visiting the local care home and are doing arts and crafts activities with the residents.

St Francis were very lucky to be gifted Christmas Food Hampers from Minesota Phat pub, who have also agreed to donate 460 easter eggs.

Staff at Matthew Algie for the second year running donated Christmas gifts to some of our families who were in need at Christmas.

The community grocery also donated selection boxes.

All of the contributions from families and business make a massive difference to our families.

The food bank isn't stocked due to the link with morrisons being unavailable. This is still a vital resource for many of our families. Dave asked the PC for another donation of £100 to restock the food bank.

The PC voted in favour of the £100.

### **Treasurer Update:**

Current balance is £3313.03 which includes the grant from the coop of £1776.13 which is going to be used for sustainable garden/outdoor equipment.

Leaving a balance of 1536.90

### **Fundraising:**

PC will run a tuck shop on the last Friday of the month (dress down day) from 10am until 10.45am. Classes will be able to visit one at a time. Mixture of crisps, jelly sweets, chocolate and juices.

PC agreed with spend of £100-150 to stock the tuck shop.

### **AOB:**

Bank Card for PC account - there currently isn't a debit card for the account which means that often the treasurer or the chair are having to spend their own money and transfer it from the PC account. It would be sensible to have a card for the account.

All voted in agreement.