



CARDINAL NEWMAN PARENT VOICE

APRIL 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to you as fellow parents/carers of our young adults, in our role as members of the newly named **Cardinal Newman Parent Voice**, which was previously the Parent Council.

We are aware that many parents and carers won't know that we exist or be aware of the work that we do. We hope in the near future, to have our own twitter account to keep you updated. We have recently set up a new email address so that you can get in contact with us, should you wish to.

We also want parents and carers to help us properly represent the views of as many parents and carers as is possible in our meetings with the head teacher and senior school staff.

If you have the time, we would love you to join the group.

We only have 4 or 5 meetings a year, but we also work in between to try and support the pupils , parents, carers and staff to make the school as good as it can be.

Once we "go-live", look out for our twitter page and section on the school website, which will be updated in the next few weeks. We will provide dates for future meetings and details of what was discussed at the previous meetings.

To give you an idea of one of the things we get involved in, we have recently been trying to use our voice to influence improvements to road safety, in particular the Bellziehill junction.

A recent incident highlighted this issue even more.

On Monday 19th March, a 1st Year pupil was knocked down whilst crossing the mouth of the off ramp of the Bellziehill Roundabout near to McDonald's. On this occasion, the pupil sustained only minor injuries but was extremely lucky. This is the second time in a year that a pupil has been knocked down due to crossing the off/on ramp of this roundabout at lunchtime.

As many of you will know this roundabout is problematic for pedestrians and carries a very high volume of traffic all day every day, which travels at a speed which is often too fast for the road layout. Pupils crossing the mouths of the on /off ramps at any time of the day are making a difficult journey which, as these recent 2 incidents have shown, have proven to be exceptionally dangerous. We are also aware of numerous "near misses".

We, supported by the head teacher and school staff, have been actively engaged for almost 2 years, in trying to establish a safe walking route to and from school which enables our young adults to navigate the Bellziehill Roundabout whilst minimising the risk of serious injury or worse.

There have been numerous meetings during this time with NLC representatives, Transport Scotland, our member for the Scottish Parliament and Local Councillors, in an attempt to improve this area by

making changes to it and putting effective measures in place to protect our children i.e. sufficient signalisation and/or marked pedestrian crossings.

Unfortunately, the only outcome so far has been the welcome addition of some signage. However, we feel this is insufficient in its size and effectiveness given: i) the volume of traffic using this roundabout ii) the speed at which the traffic travels and iii) the footfall particularly at lunchtime and at end of school day.

Over the last few weeks, we have written to all 10 Councillors who have children from their Ward at the school, to seek their support in our quest for the appropriate action to be taken. We have also contacted the MP Hugh Gaffney, Richard Lyle MSP and also asked NLC Chief Executive Paul Jukes to allocate us a Councillor to progress this issue as a matter of urgency.

The head teacher and staff regularly remind pupils of the dangers of the roads through their education and assemblies as this is as much a concern of theirs as it is to any parent or carer who might have a child affected by a collision. We see that concern first hand.

We seek your support to help the Head teacher and staff by discouraging your child from leaving the school unless it's essential. This is to enhance **all** aspects of their safety - not merely road safety. First years have been told they are not allowed to leave the school at lunchtime and the other year groups are also discouraged from leaving the school for the same safety reasons. There are no physical barriers to them leaving should they decide to.

If you decide you are going to allow your child to leave the school at lunchtime – regardless of their year group – please make sure that they are aware of good road safety practice on all of the local roads and are especially mindful of the obvious danger of using the Bellziehill Roundabout in its present layout, as a walking route at any time of the school day.

On a separate topic, we have been supporting the school in recent anniversary fundraising events and hope to be supporting further celebrations at the school, by helping at another quiz event before the end of term and hope all parents and carers will be able to support the event also.

We will keep you updated on all these matters and more, once we get up and running with the twitter page.

Thanks for taking the time to read this and if you would like to get involved, please email cnhsparentvoice@gmail.com or use the same email address if you would like to ask us anything about this letter.

Kind regards

Cardinal Newman High School Parent Voice