



## Cardinal Newman High School Parental Voice Group Meeting 18th<sup>th</sup> December 2023

### Attendees

#### **Parent Voice Members**

5 Parents (full details held if required)

Mr Brown

Also

Mr Smith - Head Teacher

Mr McLaughlin- School teacher

Mr McGrory- School teacher

Cllr Frank McNally- Local elected member(Invited by PV)

Cllr Pat Patton - Local elected member(Invited by PV)

### Apologies

2 Parent Voice members (details held required)

### Welcome and prayers

Chairperson for the night Louise Healy welcomed everyone and prayers were said

### Toilets , damaged areas and Roof issues

Parent Voice had written to all locally elected councillors extending an invite for them to be allowed to see the previously minuted damage to various areas of the school , primarily as a result of leaks related to the roof. Various councillors responded to show support for the issue and 2 Councillors were able to attend. This tour was undertaken by Mr Smith , who showed Councillors and Parent Voice members who had not previously been visited these areas, the extent of the damage. Pupil toilets were visited and these appeared in a state of disrepair through age and neglect. This was in addition to any damage caused to the toilets by water ingress.

Parent Voice members were appalled by some of the areas that were damaged as a result of roof leaks, particularly the stage and the floor in the well of the theatre which is either taped off or already warped.

Mr Smith confirmed , after being asked by Cllr Patton, that a recent external request to use the theatre had to be cancelled due to the damage.

The elected members present also seemed genuinely shocked at the extent to which the roof had caused issues at multiple areas of the school fabric and agreed that there would need to be a short term and long term plan to address this, as it would of course be having an impact on pupil experience and education.

The age and structure of the general fabric of the toilets was also discussed and in general it was understood that the facilities hadn't changed there for possibly in excess of 25 years and were in need of modernisation and upgrade, as the way they were at present was causing pupils to show little regard or respect for the facilities. This often leads to them being messy and unclean and in many cases the entire situation was putting pupils off going to the toilet at school at all.

Cllr McNally undertook an **action** to speak to colleagues (both elected members and to NLC executive to provide them a firsthand account of what he had seen and to report back to the group as soon as

possible. The target is for this to happen prior to next meeting on 5th February with an account of what action has been taken and an indication of what could be done and when.

The Councillors were thanked for their attendance and support and left the meeting at this point to allow other agenda items to progress.

### **School Minibus Fundraising**

Mr McGrory had been asked by Mr Smith to review the current ongoing costs for hire of vehicles by the school and MR McGrory reported that from start of term in Aug 2023 until date of the meeting , costs for transport were over £4,000.

Mr Smith and those present agreed that going forward this could result in costs per year of £10,000 , with each booking at the mercy of the bus provider etc relative to availability and Mr Smith re-iterated his desire to try to reduce long term costs and greater flexibility in the school's use of transport) by attempting to raise funds to purchase and run a School minibus, given the one the school has had for some considerable time is now at the end of its use.

Those present discussed the merits of costs/ lease etc but it was felt at this time to attempt to raise funds to buy a minibus would be the target and could be reviewed, once funds had been raised. Mr McGrory reported that at present the total raised was just over £3000, thanks to a one off donation, facilitated primarily by activities of a parent voice member and the staff doing a bonus ball fundraiser. Various ideas were discussed and the first two actions to increase funds would be

- To arrange a Parent Voice race night (now arranged as a St Patrick's theme Race Night 7pm Friday 8th March at Holy Family Church hall), which the school will sell tickets for on behalf of the Parent Voice and will promote the event. It will also be supported by staff, including Mr McLaughlin who will arrange the Host and facilities for the race part of the fundraising. School/ Parent Voice will appeal for raffle donations nearer the time and arrange on the night. Tickets will go on sale at end of January.
- Parent Voice, with the help of Mr Smith, will consider issuing a letter at end of January asking Parents/carers for one off donations towards the minibus fund, using school account, if they are in a position to do so. Additionally, this letter will contain an appeal to anyone linked to any businesses that would consider either sponsoring a minibus or donating towards it, that they also get in touch with the school to discuss this.

### **Christmas 2023**

Mr Smith indicated all of the school events were within the recently sent out newsletter and PV were satisfied all parents/carers would be well informed as to the numerous events taking place, which would hopefully help with the school attendance and ultimately attainment.

### **Parent Voice Event May 2024**

Mr Smith discussed that by the next meeting, (5th Feb), he would have put together a survey to go out to Parents/Carers so that he could get some indication of what Parents/carers would like to hear about/receive information on, at such an event, and the event would be designed around the findings of the survey.

### **AOCB**

None

### **Date of next meeting**

5th February 2024

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance