



**St Brendan's
Primary School and Nursery
45 Barons Road
Motherwell
ML1 2NB**

**Parents
Council
Meeting**

Date : **17/01/23**

Time : **18.00**

Meeting Donna
chaired by : Matthewman

Distribution of Minutes:

All attendees
Catherine Sweeney
Motherwell Cllrs

Attendees :

- Mrs Oates (HT - MO)
- Donna Matthewman (C - DM)
- Lisa Hewitt (VC – LH)
- Lesley-Ann Henderson (SEC - LAH)
- Amy Dornan (AD)
- Collette Feeney (CF)
- Kate Anderson (KA)
- Martin Grey (MG)
- Lynne Kellas (LK)

Apologies:

- Martin Grey (MG)
- Mrs Colton (MC)
- Mrs Cassidy (Clerk – MCA)
- Miss Burns (MB)
- Adelle Douglas (TRE – AD)



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1.00 HEAD TEACHER'S REPORT / HMIE VISIT (MO)

1.01 HT report was centred around the coming MHIE visit on 23rd January. Mrs Oates discussed some of the preparation that is underway and presented a series of A3 posters/visual aids that will be used by herself and the staff to showcase the work and achievements of the school. Mrs Oates explained that the inspectors will meet with staff members and will observe teaching. They will meet with Donna Matthewman, Chair of the Parent Council and also a group of parents who indicated in the recent survey that they'd be willing to meet with the inspectors. Mrs Oates commended her staff for all their hard work in preparation for the visit.

2.00 UNIFORM (MO)

2.01 Mrs Oates had asked to raise the subject of school uniform on the Parent Council agenda again as a result of a recent formal complaint raised by a parent directly to NLC.

Mrs Oates used the meeting to again express her open door policy and her willingness to discuss any issues raised by parents, with the parents. She raised discussion again around the work that was done with the parent council at the end of the 2021/22 school year in a bid to reduce the cost of the school uniform for families (working with a local supplier and arranging a bulk school order at reduced prices) for the new school year.

She then reiterate her rationale on the PE uniform and her recent request to parents to adhere to it. To confirm, PE Uniform is:

- Yellow T-shirt/Polo Shirt (plain or with the school badge)
- Black shorts/leggings/jogging trousers
- Black jumper/hoody/zipper

Mrs Oates made the following points:



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- Pupils should continue to come to school dressed in PE uniform on PE days. Times have moved on and given that there aren't any changing facilities in the school, its arguably not appropriate to ask children to change in classrooms
- The PE dress code was slipping and some pupils were attending school dressed inappropriately (eg belly tops etc) so this had to be addressed
- We are in the midst of a cost of living crisis and by discouraging heavily branded items, or items that are not school dress code, may help ease potential financial burden on families
- From a safety point of view, it was becoming increasingly difficult to identify St Brendan's pupils given that we share the outdoor MUGA with Muirhouse Primary
- Mrs Oates hopes that only having to wear full school uniform 3/5 days rather than all 5 will help with the cost of the school uniform as families may not need to buy as many items (shirts etc)
- Regarding the costs of the school uniform as a whole and its affordability, Mrs Oates has encouraged discussion around this and is willing to discuss further with the parent body if parents decided to consult on this.

Action Agreed – to add the subject of uniform onto the agenda of the next parent council meeting with the aim of exploring ways we can drive the cost of the uniform down in advance of parents purchasing uniform for the next school year.

3.00

SCHOOL APP

3.01

The Parent Council raised the ongoing issues with the School App. Several parents had notified the office of the problems so the school was aware. The technical



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issues lay with the app itself rather than the school's technology and other schools were experiencing the same problems.

As an interim measure, the school put a note in the children's school bags at the start of this week to let families know they were aware of the issues and agreed to send communications in the bags as an interim solution if the problem persisted. We were in agreement that the issues seemed to have been resolved though but the parent council welcomed the idea of the interim plan.

Mrs Oates encourages all parents to actively engage with all of the schools communication methods which are used to share key messages and keep parents involved. These are the school app, email/groupcall and twitter. If any parent is unable to access these methods of communication, they are encouraged to contact the school office so alternatives are arranged where possible.

4.00

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE (MG & KA)

4.01

The PC are excited to launch our new social media pages. Improving how we listen to, communicate with and speak up for all parents is a key objective of our Parent Council.

There has been an appetite to reach out to more families and increase awareness, access, engagement and participation of our group. A summary of our social media journey is below:

- Sept 2022 MG represented our group and attended a Connect (formerly Scottish Parent Teacher Council) training session on 'Parent Councils & Social Media (North Lanarkshire)'
- 12th Sept 2022 – MG circulated a draft proposal of our proposed social media activity to the PC group
- 19th Sept 2022 – sub group meeting of the PC pending a full PC approval on Tues 4th Oct
- Jan 2023 – Launch



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Our channels are:

www.facebook.com/groups/stbrendanspcfc

[Twitter.com/stbrendanspcfc](https://twitter.com/stbrendanspcfc)

PC Mailbox – pcstbrendansprimaryschool@northlanarkshire.npfs.org.uk

All are live now and we encourage parents to invite other parents to engage.

5.0 **Thank You to St Brendan's Staff**

5.1 The PC wanted to thank Mrs Oates and her staff for welcoming parents back into the school/church for the St Andrew's Day concert and the Christmas Nativity Concert. It was wonderful to be able to get back to normal and see the children perform after such a long time. We appreciate that these things don't come together easily so thanks to all the staff for their efforts.