



St Brendan's Primary Parent Council Minutes

Date: Tues 4th June 24 @ 6.30pm

Attendees: Mrs Oates (MO), Mrs Colton (MC), Donna Matthewman (DM), Lisa Hewitt (LH), Cllr Kenny Duffy (KD), Chloe Robertson (CR), Lesleyanne Henderson (LH), Kerry McLaughlan (KM), Fiona Lees (FL), Louise Curley (LC), Kate Anderson (KA)

Apologies: Martin Grey, Collette Feeney, Karen Nailen

1. **Review of previous minutes/actions.** No issues.

2. School Uniform

LH updated the school uniform newsletter to make relevant for this year. Draft shared with the group. Final amends to be made and distributed via group call/school app and printed by the school to share with the new P1 parents at the P1 induction on Fri 07/06/24.

Discussed that M&S don't appear to have brown trousers or skirts as an option on their website any more. Hoping this is only temporary and they will return. Discussed how John Lewis have in the past sold brown pieces for specific schools across the country (High School of Glasgow) but also looks like they have stopped this service as well.

MO advised that new Government guidelines are expected next year around school uniforms and when the time comes, we will discuss options at that point

3. School Transport Issue & Clean Air/Traffic Campaign

The PC wanted to acknowledge Martin Grey's (MG) contributions to the clean air/traffic campaign in recent years. After a lot of time and effort, he wanted to note his disappointed that there has been no change to the situation from our local council. MG's efforts really put the campaigns in the spot light and commends the school's collaborative approach with Muirhouse Primary. The PC would like to note thanks in the minutes for MG's efforts and support to the campaigns and his presence will be missed next term on the PC as he leaves his post as his son is moving on to High School. The PC acknowledged the efforts of all the children who participated in the recent clean air protest – it's a shame however that some parents have chosen to not make a change to

their parking behaviours. If any of our parents have any new ideas on how we now keep our children safe outside our school, then please share these with the school or PC.

KA expressed concerns that the school bus situation going to make the situation of clean air and safety for our children even worse if more parents are forced to drive their children to school. Cllr Duffy clarified that the assessments of safe walking routes have not yet been done for primary schools. He stressed that the Government guidance on 2/3 mile distance was set back in the 70s. Times were very different then and there wasn't as much traffic on the roads. These national guidelines are set out by the Scottish gov. He suggested that that is where the campaigners should challenge. KA asked if the assessments will solely be based on a child walking alone or with parents and will they take age into consideration as a 5 yr old walking to school is not the same as a P7 etc? Cllr Duffy willing to engage with parents as always. He said towards end of this year, the desk top exercise will commence for primary schools then March/April time 2025 reviews of this will be welcomed. The PC appreciate Cllr Duffy's honesty re the situation. The PC and the school would like to reach out to parents again to encourage the use of the church car park to avoid parking on Barons Road and ask that they share this with grandparents/family members who also do the pic up but won't have access to the comms from the PC/school.

4. Head Teacher Update

23 new P1s being welcomed to St Brendan's which is lowest in years. Cllr Duffy said it's not an issue specific to St B's but across the board. So there will be one P1 class this year. Reduces us to 10 classes next year. PEFF match funding has been confirmed which will help as the school only has budget for 8 classes. MO has also asked for a Probationer too. The aim is for smaller classes again with the biggest class peaking at 29. There will be one P7 and a P6/7 next year.

75/80% of children achieving level across stages P1/4&7 so the children are doing well

3 new permanent positions to confirm – Miss Burns was successful in the recent permanent PT post in the school. Mrs Smedley and Miss McShane both now permanent in the school giving us good consistency that we've not have recently

Nursery structure will be different next year as the new model embeds. There will be 1 lead in 2-3 room and 1 lead in the 3-5 room supported by the other staff members. It's been a challenging time in nurseries with the VRS (Voluntary Redundancy Scheme) and the workforce planned restructure. There will be some time needed to embed the new structure but we have a great staff and we wish them well for the year ahead.

We have some lovely news to share. Three of our staff are expecting. Mrs Fleming finishes on 14th June, and Mrs O'Donnell and Mrs Smedley are both due to finish Oct/Nov time. Congratulations to all three and planning is underway to cover their Mat Leave. More to follow on this.

Gold Rights Respecting Award – our assessment has been and it went very well. Thanks to everyone who was involved. We should hear our result by August. It was a very

positive visit. Hoping we've attained the gold. We're also in a similar position for our Gold sports award too and all evidence has been submitted so fingers crossed for a positive outcome. Almost there with our Eco Award too.

We're working on class structure for next year to ensure the children are placed in classes based on numeracy, literacy and friendship groups. A lot of time and effort goes into this to ensure we do the best for the children.

The diocesan music project will continue next year which we're really please about

Curriculum – greater focus on expressive arts. We want a curricular pathway for this rather than doing things sporadically. More to follow.

Health & Wellbeing - Miss Burns will dedicate 1 day a week to work on a new programme which we feel will benefit the children and is much needed in our area

Focus on team building in the nursery and need to allow the new structure to embed

5. Summer Fayre

Takes place on Friday 14th June. This year we have more of our own stalls to try to generate more income. American Sweetie Hamper, Jewellery stall, mystery box, raffles etc.

4 bouncy castles this year and trying something new with a wrist band offering unlimited bounces for £5.

Raffle prizes welcomed and can be handed into the school.

Plan is for parent helpers and teachers to be assigned jobs/stalls with breaks so the helpers can enjoy time with their children too

6. AOCB

Success stories – happy to share we have many of them (Glee, Boys football team winning tournament at OLHS), Dancing, Girls football team winning tournament). The PC wanted to express thanks to the staff contributions to all of these activities as it takes so much time/effort behind the scenes and out of hours to achieve this success. MO also added every member of staff attended the glee/dancing and she's so lucky to have such an invested and passionate team of teachers. Thanks too for their commitment in preparation for all of this years' sacraments and thank also to Fr Kieran for all his help too.

This was the last meeting of the school year. Next meeting will be the PC AGM in August 2024. Date TBC.