

St Nicholas RC Primary School

Parent Council Meeting

Meeting details

Date:	Time:	Location:
03 Feb 2020	18:30-20:00	St Nicholas Primary School

Attendees:	Initials	Role	Attendees:	Initials	Role
Louise McGuire	LM	Head Teacher, Interim	Rachael Gilmore	RG	Depute Head Teacher, Interim
Miss Miller		Principal Teacher	Andy Weir	AW	Chair
Alan Morrison	AM	Parent	Nicole Scherer-Dickson	NS	Deputy Chair
Claire Roxburgh	CR	Vice Treasurer/ Parish Representative	Julie Zasada	JA	Treasurer
Lindsey Swinney	LS	Parent	Karen Neilson	KN	Parent
Fiona Bremner	FB	Secretariat	Lucy Matheson	LMa	Guest Parent

Apologies:	Initials	Division/areas represented
Jo Cook	JC	Parent
Linda Quigley	LQ	Parent

Minutes & Actions

Welcome
Welcome and agreement to the minutes and actions circulated from the last meeting. All agreed.

Meeting
<p>P7 Hoodie's</p> <p>LMa joined the meeting to request funding towards the P7 hoodies as per the leavers in 2019. Parent Council agreed to fund £10 per hoodie. Lucy took the action to create the order form and give to the office ladies to share with P7 Teachers.</p> <p>It was also agreed that Louise would look at any children who may need additional funding to secure a hoodie.</p> <p>Action 1: LMa to create and share P7 hoodie order form for the school to distribute.</p> <p>Action 2: LM to inform parent council if any additional funding would be required.</p>

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Financial Update

CM updated that we have £1,196 in our fund; £183 still needs to be transferred to the Dias as it is money which was raised for Retired Clergy. CM also updated that they are working with the bank to organise for JZ as a signature on the account.

Action 3: CM to organise money being transferred to the Retired Clergy.

Action 4: CM and JZ are working with the bank to organise JZ as a signature on our account

Parish Update

CM updated that Father Jeremy is finalising his mass times for Lent and Easter, this will include an early morning service for teachers during Lent.

Sacrament enrolment for the P3 & 4s is on-going and Father Jeremy has asked that as in previous years they also attend Corpus Christie on the 14th June.

Father Jeremy would like to know how the children are getting on with the Pope Francis award and in particular would like information to be placed on notice board at the back of the church. RG advised that Miss Morgan was focusing on this and she would ask her to share information with Father Jeremy and organise information to be placed on the notice board.

Action 5: RG to ask Miss Morgan to share how the children are getting on with the Pop Francis awards with Father Jeremy and for information to be placed on the notice board at the back of the church.

Updates from the school

AW started the discussion by encouraging parent council to be involved in the school improvement plan for 2020/2021.

LM moved on to say that it had been a busy start to the year with both her and RG getting used to their new roles.

Part of the focus of for January had been revisiting the school values and reminding the children why they are so important to them. They were also holding assemblies on each of them with the first two being Trust and Respect.

The school were also taking the time to look more deeply into the results of the recent inspection. Whilst the inspection was incredibly positive it was still a focus to analyse the results and work on what could be improved. This included looking at Poverty Proofing our school day (see section later in the minutes) and consistency of teaching at all times. They are also encouraging teachers to feel free to do and focus on things that they feel are important and will be beneficial to the children.

Focus continues on developing our young workforce with STEM remaining a priority. Finally, the school would really appreciate any parents to come and get involved with the school especially if you have a skill or experience with a particular topic that the class are covering.

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Ethos Survey

LM shared the West Lothian results from the recent Ethos Survey. St Nicolas results were incredibly good and very importantly showed that all the children in the school felt they were very safe. There are a couple of things that the school are looking at:

For the children's safety there are no longer allowed to let anyone into the school so please be aware of this if you are visiting.

Social media – there are some new guidelines in place to protect children on social media so for the time being the school has had to stop the use of it. This is only a temporary measure to allow the teachers to fully understand the implications of the new measures and ensure that the school are adhering to them all. This may mean in due course more of the daily updates from the teachers may be accessible via the portal

Poverty Proofing St Nicolas

LM went on to talk about the new Scottish Government initiative on Poverty Proofing our Schools. There are more than 210,000 children in Scotland officially recognised as living in poverty which means that their families may not have the household income to ensure their children have the necessary resources for school and in addition can not easily afford to take part in school activities which puts the children at risk of feeling different, excluded and unhappy.

The Government have asked all schools to look what poverty proofing they can put in place and what small changes we can make to ensure that we are minimising the risk of any children feeling excluded.

LM asked for volunteers to look at this for the school, small changes can make a difference, for example limiting the amount of dress down for a £1 day, focusing on a few key Lent activities, looking at the cost of school trips, after school clubs.

LS added that she had heard of a welcome pack for children joining new schools this would include information on the school, school sweatshirt and a school bag. We all agreed that this would be something we would like to do.

Action 6: KN, LS & FB all volunteered to form a sub committee looking at Poverty Proofing

Curriculum Cafe

The next Curriculum Café is on Friday 21 February and we agreed to have a Uniform Stall. Everyone agreed to share this on Social Media to encourage donations. Members of the council also offered to wash any uniform at the school. Volunteers to man the stall included NS & FB.

Action 7: Organise uniform stall on 21 February 2020

Winter Weather

LM asked for parent council support with speaking to parents re: the icy weather. The school are limited on what they can do and priority for children and staff is one clear route into the school. The janitors now support three of four schools so are not able to do any more in the tight timelines they have. Finally, the turning Circle will only open when it is safe to do so. If it is icy and unsafe it has to remain closed. This is not a priority to clear for the Council or Janitors. Children's safety has to remain the priority.

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Parental Involvement Act

LM finished by advising the guidance for the Parental Involvement Act, which was last updated in 2006 is now due to be updated. This is being updated following an independent review of the Act by the National Parent Forum of Scotland. A commitment to modernise and strengthen the guidance was then included within the national Learning Together Action Plan on parent involvement and engagement. The aim of this review is to modernise the guidance taking account of the changes in practice and wider legislation that have occurred since 2007. The second aim is to strengthen the guidance.

LM asked for volunteers as our views are due to be submitted by May 2020.

Action: 8 Read the information on the Parent Involvement Act and advise at next parent council if you would like to be involved.

Gala Day

Planning for the Gala day is already underway with the theme agreed as being Children's Books. We agreed to allow the children to pick from three books and to run an after school club to help prepare the float.

Action 9: If you would like to support with Gala Prep please let the school know

Fundraising

We agreed to look at a movie night, date to be agreed and other options for fund raising. One option would be a silent disco but having looked at costs (thanks RG) this may cost £10 per head which could be expensive. Another option was to run Easter Discos – LS offered to be the DJ – maybe do these over two nights?

Action 10: Agree: a date for a movie night (School to advise of date please), shall we run Easter Discos P1-4, P5-P7, do we proceed with silent disco or is it cost prohibitive?

AOB

Monday – March 16th at 18:30pm