



Putting Young People First



Minutes of Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 2nd November 2023

Present: J McGhee, J Currie, DM Miller, L Docherty, S McBride, M Caldwell, G McGowan, JP Ferguson, J Fuchs

Apologies: P Boyce, A Ngassa, A McBride

AGENDA

1. Previous minutes and matters arising - agreed

Treasurer – Discussion of finances led onto funding for the football pitch. The Council would look to explore this in more detail after Council banking facilities was established.

2. Parent Council member(s) updates

- a. **Staff Member** – The group welcomed a new member as Jon Paul Ferguson joined to serve as the Staff Representative for this session.

3. School Staffing Updates

Mr McGhee updated Council on the latest appointments to the school's leadership team:

Lucy Maughan was appointed the Depute Head Teacher for S4 and will take up the post on the 12th of December. Mr McGhee has assumed the role in the interim, with aspects of the remit covered by Ms Sullivan and Mrs Robertson.

Acting Pupil Support Teachers Robbie Leith and Jordan O'Hara were promoted on a permanent basis as of the 11th October, bringing the number of Pupil Support Teachers at St Andrew's to eight.

Mr McGhee agreed to provide an update on curriculum uptake and resulting staffing implications at the January meeting.

4. Learning & Teaching Policy (Mr J Fuchs, PT Learning & Teaching)

Mr Fuchs presented an overview of the St Andrew's Learning and Teaching Policy.

The Council was provided with a summary of the policy, showing the ten commitments teachers make to young people. Mr Fuchs agreed to make the full Learning and Teaching policy document available to Council following the meeting.

Gemma McGowan and Suzanne McBride asked about moderation– Mr McGhee advised on the approach within the school.

Louise Doherty asked about the policies on digital learning. Mr Fuchs advised digital technologies were covered in the full document within the pedagogy section and confirmed plans to increase use of Showbie to improve parental engagement.

Michelle Caldwell requested more instructions to setup Showbie and noted parents did not have the ability to see pupils' class work. Donna Marie Miller observed the Seesaw system used in primary made work visible and had the facility to message teachers. Mr McGhee agreed some of these features could be beneficial.

Suzanne McBride asked about teacher performance management – Mr McGhee mentioned the procedures in place to address this.

The meeting was issued with a copy of the Learning Agreement signed by pupils at St Andrew's. Mr Fuchs advised this will be updated in the coming months following consultation with young people – a version for parents will undergo a similar process.

AOCB

The group discussed the establishment of a School Nutritional Action Committee. The SNAC would work to ensure the school food offering was healthy and desirable through parent and pupil representation. Michelle Caldwell expressed interest in becoming involved. Mr McGhee outlined plans to improve school meal uptake and encourage young people to sit in by improving the environment in the dining hall.

Suzanne McBride proposed establishing a uniform bank at the school for parents to donate school clothing. It was suggested that donations be requested on the school website and social media channels. Mr McGhee agreed to issue a GroupCall message to all parents requesting donations the following day.

Mr Fuchs agreed to update the Parent Council section school website upon receipt of the latest contact details and asked about its social media channels. Jackie Currie has access to the Facebook and X accounts - Gemma McGowan offered to take on administration of these.

Jackie Currie asked if the availability of the school calendar could be made available. Mr Fuchs agreed to post the calendar on the school website and social media. Gemma McGowan asked if it could be sent to Showbie.

Gemma McGowan requested an update on iPads for S1 pupils. Mr McGhee advised of plans repair damaged iPads and approval to order a further 50 tablets in the hope of a resolution in the coming weeks.

Next Meeting - Thursday 7th December 2023 at 6.00pm