



Putting Young People First



Minutes of Parent Council Meeting

Thursday 2nd November 2023

Present: J McGhee, J Currie, DM Miller, P Boyce, JP Ferguson, J Fuchs, L Murphy

Apologies: A Ngassa, A McBride, L Docherty, S McBride, M Caldwell, G McGowan

AGENDA

The meeting opened with a screening of the Parent Council Welcome and Learning and Teaching Policy videos to be added to the Parent Council Page shortly.

1. Previous minutes and matters arising - agreed

iPads will be issued to the current S1 in the New Year - it was agreed that a parental information evening would be held alongside this.

2. School Staffing Updates

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

Lucy Maughan will return to St Andrew's as the Depute Head Teacher for S4 on the 11th of December.

The Education Department has agreed to restore 1.4 FTE of teaching staffing to the school. The school intends to expand its Nurture provision to 33 periods a week, with Robert Galbraith, Teacher of Modern Studies, focusing on Nurture full time.

St Andrew's has been given the freedom to directly appoint teachers for two currently advertised vacancies – a Teacher of Mathematics (replacing Mr MacAdie, promoted elsewhere) and a Teacher of Modern Studies.

The annual staffing exercise will take place within the school in January and at authority level in February.

Partnership Base DYW Amanda Harvie is employed by Family Action in Rogerfield and Easterhouse which is funded by the school. Council contracts with FARE are now being put out to tender – Mr McGhee advised St Andrew's is keen to retain Amanda. Pauline Boyce mentioned possible TUPE eligibility.

Mr McGhee advised there will be longer term implications on staffing due to spending reductions and the uncertain future of Pupil Equity Funding following the 2026 elections.

3. Partnership Programmes (Miss L Murphy, Partnership Development Manager)

Miss Murphy informed Council on the work of the Partnership Base at St Andrew's.

The team comprises the Partnership Development Manager, a DYW, a Motivation, Commitment and Resilience Pathways Co-ordinator and three Skills Development Scotland Careers Advisors.

The base works with disengaged young people providing tailored programs, improving their attendance, to ensure they are learning and gaining qualifications in preparation for the world of work and raise their aspirations.

There are programmes with employers in various industries including construction, hospitality, mechanics and childcare.

The partnership office arranges work placements for pupils and is currently evaluating new types of placement over extended periods.

A year-round service is provided with summer and Easter programmes.

Life skill programmes are offered to young people. A parenting programme was suggested – Miss Murphy noted the Adverse Childhood Experiences programme had been run previously and spoke of the partnership base's non-judgmental approach to maintain positive relationships.

Support to families can be as simple as a coffee and a chat or more extensive assistance in the form of ALDI vouchers or provisions from a clothing and food bank.

Mr McGhee noted the Partnership Base's ability to improve the basic outcomes of the hardest to reach young pupils that other schools do not (St Andrew's is #1 in Glasgow in this area, 100% of St Andrew's students move onto positive destinations of employment, education or training) - the goal now being to improve the quality of these destinations by growing business partnerships, including increasing use of apprenticeships.

Jackie Currie noted that lots of parents had unexpected career paths – Mr McGhee agreed this experience was an untapped resource, that could be used by bringing parents in to talk with young people about careers.

4. Child Protection Policy (Mr J McGhee, Head Teacher)

Mr McGhee presented an overview of the St Andrew's Child Protection Policy.

The Council was provided with a summary of the policy, showing the procedures in place and the shared responsibility of all staff to protect young people. Mr Fuchs agreed to make the latest Child Protection policy document available to Council following the meeting.

Child Protection at St Andrew's is governed by Glasgow City Council Management Circular 57 and its own Policy.

All school staff receive training on the policy on the first day of each school year as the responsibility for the safety of young people is shared by all.

All staff are aware that any doubts about the safety of a young person should be reported to Miss MacLellan, Depute Head Teacher (S5) and Child Protection Co-Ordinator. Miss MacLellan attends all relevant training and serves as a single point of contact for all protection issues.

Jackie Currie asked how frequently the policy was reviewed. Mr McGhee noted the initial task had been to document existing processes in the school and produce policies based on this and best practices. The focus would now move to regularly reviewing and revising policies, those like Child Protection need to be reviewed every year.

AOCB

Jackie Currie requested that a survey could be sent out to check how comfortable Council members were with sharing contact details with the Council and listing their details on the Parent Council page. It was agreed that this be sent the following day.

Pauline Boyce requested the creation of a dedicated Parent Council email.

Next Meeting - Thursday 11th January 2024 at 6.00pm