

St Margarets Academy
Parent Council
Monday 27 November 6pm

In attendance

Kirstin Shemilt (Chair), Jilly Burns (Vice Chair), Kirsty Sharma; Fiona Ferguson; Mandy Taylor; Chris Segovia; Lorna Boyd; Monica Allison; Paddy Conway (DHT), Anne Crookston (DHT), Isla Wright (HT), Corrie Boyd (DHT) and Mr Martin Dobie (Church Rep).

Apologies

Christine Clark; Colette Moran, Sophie Rarity; Stephen McCulloch; Claire Roxburgh; Shazia Imran Taffy Kangara; Lesley Ann Riad

Opening Prayer

Mr Dobie

Matters Arising (Review of previous minutes)

- Mr Conway confirmed there is around £270 in **bank account** which both S McC (Treasurer) and Mrs Rae (school office) can access. It is a separate account of main St Mags account. Any funds raised by the PC can be added to this account and withdrawn when required.
- Mrs Wright provided new confirmed simplified summary of **uniform policy**. Parent Council confirmed their support for communication of this to parents. The purpose of this is to simplify the school uniform message to encourage more wearing of the basic uniform and reduce pupils wearing expensive brands. This is very much welcome by the Parent Council.
- Discussion around **uniform hub** and QR codes for pupils to self-refer for uniform. The school are continuing to look at ways to improve access to free school uniform and will investigate ways to increase donations from the school community.
- **Poverty proofing statement** currently being revised. Mrs Wright will send to Parent Council for review.
- **Platform for parent communication**. School is currently considering purchasing the platform Satchel 1 tool (developed from 'Show my homework') which would help parents to communicate directly with teachers. **ACTION:** Mrs Wright looking for a group to review the tool and will email some dates in January/February and seek parents to user test.
- **Attainment data** – review around protected characteristics was requested by Parent Council. Mr Conway summarised the data. School aware of areas they would like to improve upon. Mr Conway is very happy to discuss and contextualise for any parents with an interest in this area.
- Locks replaced on **toilets** have been implemented when required. Still issues with toilets with pupils flushing objects down toilets or trying to take time out of class to gather in toilets. Teachers have been discussing with pupil voice groups and trying to support pupils coming out of class and wandering and encouraging better behaviour. School recognising the

societal problem of issues like vaping and will action more knowledge education in PSE and with more supervision of toilet use in busy times where possible

Agenda points

1. S1 fighting in school

CS raised the issue. Discussed S1 and S2 assembly focussed on not leaving campus to make sure pupils are safe. Also focussing on ensuring pupils know where there are quieter spaces in school and how to contact staff. Also enforcing behaviour expected and discussing with community police officer if required. ACTIONS: School will clarify Lidl policy and bring Positive Relationships Policy and its communications plan to the next meeting.

2. School homework policy

KS queried current policy. ACTION: Mrs Wright agreed to review the policy and bring it back to Parent Council.

3. Head Teacher update

Mrs Wright provided a short summary of her report (previously circulated)

4. VSE update

Mrs Wright provided a short summary and highlighted many areas of success that were identified through the VSE process. The inspection highlighted the positive attitude to learning from pupils and staff and very good levels of engagement, such as pupil voice and leadership opportunities. The review has highlighted the need for greater consistency in teaching and learning across the school community and this is being addressed through the new Learning and Teaching group with support from Senior Leadership Team. A new PT of Pedagogy has been employed to lead on this issue. Also want to focus more on digital learning. Overall aim is more consistency of approach for classroom learning and what a St Margaret's class looks like in terms of streamlining standards across the school. More consistent use of individual Learning Pupil Profile required across all subjects to ensure consistency of pupil progress tracking across the curriculum. Looking specifically at literacy and numeracy, e.g. improving SQCF Level 6 numeracy out with SQA qualifications. The school also wants to build on current successes in positive destinations and has a team working on this currently. Overall the school is very pleased with the findings of the review team and looks forward to presenting the findings to the whole parent body following reporting to West Lothian Council Committee in January.

5. Participatory Budget. Ideas from pupils so far.

Welcome packs for P7s

Outdoor sitting spaces.

Cost of the school day.

Investment with more family events.

Curricular visits.

Funding a breakfast club.

ICT and devices.

English and numeracy.

ACTIONS: Mrs Wright will share school budget, PEF budget and the participatory budget at the next meeting.

6. Fundraising Opportunities

ACTIONS: Mr Hopkins would like to present some information on trips and fundraising at the next meeting. KS also suggested that a sub-committee might be developed to look at fundraising. To be carried forward for discussion at the next meeting.

7. AOB

CS asked about the swimming pool use out-with the school. IW confirmed that this is used by West Lothian Leisure

MA commented on how well the school was doing with P7 transition and other school events and how pupils and parents were praising the school for their proactive approach.

PC Constitution is now typed up and Kirstin will send on an electronic copy for print out to Mr Dobie.
ACTIONS: KS to email PC

8. Closing prayer: Mr Dobie

9. Date of next meeting: Monday 22nd January at 6pm