

## SACRED HEART PARENT PARTNERSHIP MEETING

### MINUTES

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2024 via Teams

#### PRESENT:

Siobhra Cran (HT)	Kristiana Gotzsche-Robertson (Treasurer, parent P4)
Lily Learmonth (DHT)	Belinda Love (parent P3)
Julie Findlay (DHT)	Donata Grigonyte (parent P2)
Jemima Vetha (Chair, parent P3)	Lauren Quinton (parent P1)
Katarzyna Laszkiewicz (parent P2)	Pauline Cunningham (parent P2)
Jennie Chinembiri (parent P5/6)	Rachel Crease (parent P7)

#### APOLOGIES:

Gillian McLaren (parent)

- Welcome and introductions of new parents and staff. JV advised introductions would be included for future meetings.
- KL advised that she felt the notice given regarding the meeting was very short, with the link only sent out the day before. Dates of meetings were advised in the Weekly Newsletter OF 19th January, and reminders were sent through some class Whatsapp groups last week. JV apologized for not giving the school visibility of the agenda in advance.
- **SCHOOL UPDATE:**
  1. SC reminded parents that the new bike racks are now available in 2 locations: outside the school office at the front of the school and in the P4-7 playground. Some bikes are still being left against the fence – parents are encouraged to use the bike racks and to remember to use a bike lock.
  2. The school is keen to make progress with the raised beds/growing area but there is a lack of gardening expertise among the staff. BL volunteered that she is keen to get involved with this as it's an area she has knowledge and experience of with lots of ideas. There was discussion about the need for an outdoor tap to allow efficient watering of the beds. SC to query the possibility of installing one during an upcoming meeting with the council facilities team. SC to contact BL offline to explore how she can support the school in this area.

3. Staff absence: Mrs Shaw is off on long term sick following an operation in January. She is well but will remain off for the foreseeable future. There is also a member of staff off from nursery; both absences put pressure on the school.
4. There was a reminder of parent consultations coming up and a request to encourage parent engagement. It was suggested that the Parent Partnership may want to have a stall at the event as a point of contact for any parents who have anything they'd like to ask or raise. Parent partnership to consider.
5. This week the school had its 2<sup>nd</sup> quality assessment visit from the Local Authority which was focused on learning and teaching. The visit noted the many improvements and initiatives which have been implemented and SC was particularly pleased that they picked up on the very positive relationships that exist within the school. The Authority will produce a report on their findings, and this will be shared with parents.
6. There have been lots of reminders going out about payments for upcoming camps. As thoughts now turn to arrangements for next year, informal opinion was sought on whether the current number of camps should be kept as is or reduced in number over the period P3-P7. A variety of points of view were expressed.

- FASHION SHOW

1. LL – ticket sales are trickling in quite slowly and as the event is only 3 weeks away, we really need to try to encourage more sales. We need 100 people as a minimum. JV to try and sell direct in the playground.
2. KGR has posted on local Facebook pages – still waiting for approval from Penicuik High School parents' page.
3. JC asked whether it was worthwhile bringing kids, but the advice was as the clothing was for adults, and unless needed for childcare, there would not be much to entertain kids.
4. The question was raised about selling prosecco. It is possible to get an occasional license but there will not be enough time before the event. Other options surrounding a donation system were discussed.

- WINE TASTING

1. JC explained how the evening works and what we could hope to raise, alongside the restriction we have on time and venue availability.
2. The possibility of obtaining a license to hold a wine tasting at school was also raised but would not be guaranteed within our timescale.
3. The point was raised about the need to fundraise in the wider community not just within our own parent cohort to avoid just recycling our own money which JV confirmed was the aim behind both the fashion show and the wine tasting.
4. The decision was taken not to stage a wine tasting this academic year but to revisit for next year.

- HOMEWORK

1. KL expressed concern regarding sending home Chromebooks for children as an unnecessary negative influence. She was concerned by hearing of her child watching YouTube during school hours and asked what the rationale was behind the move.
2. SC advised that Chromebooks were supplied to all children to ensure equity of access to devices. There are controls on every device to ensure that children cannot access inappropriate content. She is aware that some parents are unhappy with Chromebooks coming home and intends to survey parents with a view to adopting a possible opt-in/out system for Chromebooks.
3. JF encouraged parents who have concerns to raise them with the school either to class teacher or direct to the leadership team, and not to feel they need to wait for a parent partnership meeting.
4. JV has passed on questions and comments she has received surrounding homework to the school who will answer them, and the answers will be cascaded out through her to parents.
5. KL was confused by the grid format for homework with concerns it is vague for the child. She was hoping for a specific task to be set by the teacher and printed out to be done at home. Other parents also expressed frustration that without express direction and involvement from their teacher, children are less likely to be open to doing the task at home. They had also hoped for the grid/tasks to be printed out for children. It was suggested that a jotter would be handy for kids to write in that they could use specifically for homework and it was confirmed that this is possible.
6. SC reiterated that the homework is to be parent-led and while staff have created the grids so that children can practice at home, it is not intended that staff are actively involved in the homework. Grids/tasks can be printed out for the lower years.

- OTHER

1. There has been a suggestion from one of the Dads for fundraising initiatives more aimed at Dads, perhaps featuring runs or activities utilizing Go Fund me or similar, which it was felt is worth exploring.
2. The Summer Fayre is penciled in for 22<sup>nd</sup> June. It was noted that we need someone to lead on that and get things moving asap. There was a suggestion that a BBQ run by Dads could be a good inclusion.
3. Treasurer – figures were not to hand, but there has been no change since the last meeting.
4. The next meeting is scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024. The meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March will not go ahead due to the Fashion Show taking place on that night.

Dear parents/carers,

Thank you for sending your queries around homework and devices to your class reps prior to your PP meeting last week on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February.

Please see answers below from Mrs Cran in relation to the all the questions submitted to her.

- As discussed at the meeting, the home-learning grid format was decided based on the fact that when surveyed, 47.7% of parents agreed that the grid approach would be their preferred option. I fully acknowledge that this may not be ideal for some families, but it allows for home-learning to be done at an appropriate pace for different households, and will hopefully avoid any undue stress on weeks that are busy where it could be difficult to fit in time to engage with home-learning.
- If children would like to share what they have been learning at home with their teachers, I propose that they share this by uploading a seesaw post to their profile, which their teacher will then see. This can only be done, however, from their school device. Further to the opt out option for devices, this adds another challenge, which I propose is overcome by those families emailing a photo to the school, which will be forwarded to the relevant teacher.
- In terms of families wanted to know what their children will be learning in the coming weeks, this is included within class weekly updates.
- An opt out form will be issued for families who do not wish for devices to be sent home following on from discussions with parents over the last number of weeks. As mentioned, best practice across the local authority is that devices are sent home with learners to ensure equity for all and support learning at home, however I understand that this is not the preferred option for many parents and it is ultimately at my discretion whether devices go home or not. I feel the opt out option is the best compromise at this point. This will have implications for sharing posts to seesaw, as mentioned above. If parents are opting out, please encourage them to have this conversation with their children to manage expectations.
- Further information about devices, which answers a lot of the other questions about devices, can be found by following this link:: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Egl3Ujj7OBiOEK2S0\\_mMdWuhmHphu1olZ4TIVEbPxck/edit#](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Egl3Ujj7OBiOEK2S0_mMdWuhmHphu1olZ4TIVEbPxck/edit#)
- P1 and P2 have had paper copies of home learning sent home today, along with a jotter. An item has been added to the weekly update advising parents that they can request a jotter from the school if they would like one for their child in classes P3-P7. P3-P7 learners have chromebooks and access to google classroom.

- Some parents have commented on not engaging with the home-learning due to there being minimal evidence to support its impact. There are a large number of varying opinions around home-learning, and a large majority of schools did indeed put a stop to home-learning due to its minimal impact. Home-learning tasks that have been issued have been done so in response to some parents wanting it, but it is not mandatory, so families can choose whether or not to engage with it.
- In terms of gauging levels of engagement this term, we will complete a google form for learners to identify whether they have completed any of the tasks, whether they enjoyed it, and hear pupil voice in general around their perception of home-learning. As mentioned, if there is less than 50% engagement, we will not continue with home-learning. This is, again, as mentioned in the meeting last night, due to how I manage the allocation of time within a teacher's working week. We have limited time to work on school improvement and I would prefer that time to be spent in ways that benefit as many learners as possible. I cannot expect teachers to keep adding to their workload when their workload is already incredibly big, particularly so with a return visit from HMle. Staff wellbeing is incredibly important and I need to look at the bigger picture when implementing changes like this.

Many thanks,  
Jemima.