



**Partnership Group
Minutes
4th September 2024**

Present

Office bearers:	Staff:	Attendees:
Mr S Smith (Secretary)	Mrs W Gallacher (Acting Headteacher) Mrs L Kelly	Mrs K Neill Ms S Quigley Mrs A White Mr C Gibney
	Church representative: Mrs V Stewart	

1. Welcome & apologies

- Mr Smith welcomed all
- Apologies received from Mrs Dempsie, Mrs Lockhart & Mrs Donnellan
- Introductions were made around the table

2. Actions from previous meeting (not covered by other agenda items)

- Mr Smith shared dates of agreed meetings this year with Mrs Gallacher for the school calendar.

3. Headteacher's report

- Staff in the school are delighted at how well our Primary 1 learners have settled into St John's as they learn our school rules and routines.
- School roll has dropped resulting in a move from 4 to 3 classes.
- A yearly school calendar will be shared via Parents Portal with all parents/carers on Friday 6th of September. This will be updated and sent every month along with the School Newsletter.
- Mrs Gallacher shared a SWAY detailing our Standards and Quality Report which outlined the School Improvement targets from 2023/24 detailing the progress and impact for learning and teaching. The SWAY also contains further information regarding our Improvement Plans for 2024/25. This will be shared on our website from Friday 6th of September.
- SLC produced a presentation for Parent Partnership Groups outlining the Council's Policy on Promoting Positive Relationships and Understanding Distressed Behaviours (PPRUBD). This was shared with the Partnership Group (see Appendix).
- A parent asked about exemplars of teaching materials and strategies to support learning and teaching. Mrs Gallacher explained that previous workshops for parents to showcase this had fairly low uptake, but resources could perhaps be shared on the school website.



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- The targets for the school this session will be:

1. Develop play-based learning for P1-3
2. Develop inquiry-based learning for P4+
3. Raising attainment in Maths

Any parent can request a copy of the School Improvement Plan from Mrs Gallacher which goes into more detail.

4. Treasurer's report

- Current balance is £1124.38 after paying for cakes for the garden opening in June, the P7 leavers treat and ties.

5. Fundraising Ideas

- Asda Cashpot for Schools promotion opened on September 2nd whereby customers can download the Asda Rewards App and select "St John's Blackwood" to be their nominated school (searching with ML11 should help to find the school). The nominated school will receive £1 from each customer who uses the App and 0.5% of the value of the customer's shop will be donated to the nominated school at no cost to the customer.

The promotion lasts until the end of November with the reward total paid out in spring 2025. The Reward app can be used in store or online. Mr Smith has applied for the school to be nominated. If all parents/carers/family/friends of the school could share the promotion, it would be a massive help in raising some vital funds for the school. For more information and to download the app, please see:

<https://www.asda.com/cashpotforschools>

- The idea of a Halloween Disco was discussed and agreed upon. This will be held on Tues 29th October from 6:30pm until 8pm (provisional until the school applies for a free let in the school hall). Entry would be kept as low as possible (or through a small donation) to ensure all children would be able to attend. All in attendance were keen that any families who might be struggling financially would not be prevented from attending. Mrs Gallacher asked that any families in this position could approach her discreetly.
- The idea of a Christmas Fayre was discussed and agreed upon. This will be held in Our Lady & St John's Parish Hall immediately after the 12 noon Mass on Sun 1st December. Mr Smith has shared the date with parents on the school facebook page to ensure those who may wish to purchase a table (for a donation) with a business/group/seller have time to check their diaries/calenders.



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6. School Garden Update

- Mrs Stewart gave an update on the current progress within the school garden. It was stressed that the garden would remain for the use of the whole community. The garden has been well maintained by a group of volunteer families over the summer, but questions arose such as who would be looking after the garden now. Mrs Gallacher was keen to support the garden project and will contact B+Q in East Kilbride for some winter colour plants.
- The next part of the project is to tackle the untouched area with monobloc next to the overrun telephone box. The children in the John Muir group had discussed using the space for a gazebo that would allow the space to be used more often all year round. Applying for bids to support this were discussed and Mrs Gallacher will liaise with Mrs Stewart on the garden plans.

7. Any parent issues/suggestions for discussions:

- Instrumental music instructor assignment to St Johns?

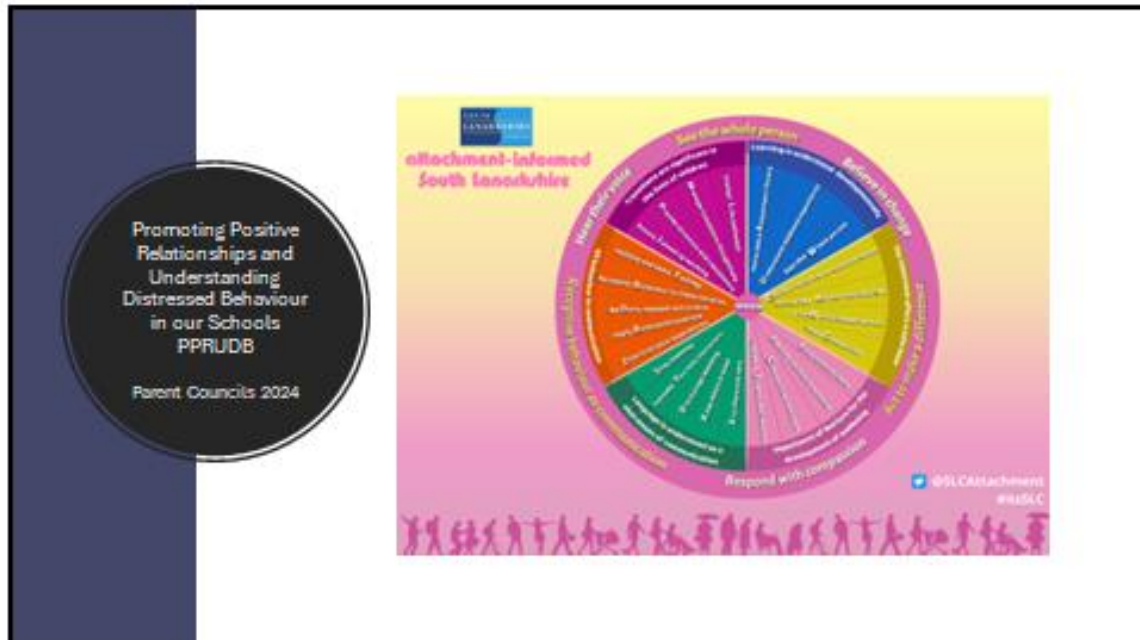
Mrs Taggart raised the question as last year's P7's were the first to receive music instructors external to the school for quite some time. Mrs Gallacher has heard from Elaine Duffy that St John's will have a new music tutor which should continue for years to come. There will be limited spaces on offer to P6/7. More details to follow soon.

8. AOCB

- Mrs Stewart and Mrs Gallacher had both been contacted by Fr Sean about the littering and overgrown area at the front of the school next to Carlisle Road. As this is council land and not church land, Fr Sean wondered if the Partnership Group could contact the council to see if the area can be tidied up. Mr Smith will contact Ground Maintenance on the parent side and Mrs Gallacher will on the teacher side.
- Mrs Neill asked if some of the information shared with parents (such as First Friday Mass celebrated on a Thursday) in newsletters could be explained in a little more detail, especially for the benefit of new parents. Mrs Gallacher agreed.

Date of next meeting - 6.30pm, Wednesday 6th November 2024

Appendix



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Additional Support Needs

- In 2020 an independent review into Additional Support for Learning Legislation in Scotland was published. It is usually referred to as the Morgan Review.
- The Chair Angela Morgan found that around 30% of children in our schools had Additional Support Needs.
- She recommended that work is done nationally to make schools more inclusive and to develop more understanding of the needs children have now.
- An ASL Action plan with 12 recommendations is being taken forward by Local Authorities and other organisations.
- Some of the recommendations include; developing a more positive view of children with additional support needs, changes to initial teacher education and career development and better engagement with parents.

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Background to our Approach in SLC

Inclusion is the cornerstone to help us achieve equity and excellence in education for all of our children and young people.' (Scottish Government : Consultation on the Presumption of Mainstreaming 2019)

We have more complex children in our schools and PPRUDB is to ensure all children are supported.

Reflects legislation and key policy drivers: ASL Act, GIRFEC, UNCRC

Ensures consistency across our schools

Takes a relationship based approach along with other SLC work on nurture and our attachment informed, trauma – sensitive approach led by Psychological Services.

Schools will have their own policy based on these guidelines and all our schools strive to create a positive ethos which promotes inclusion and wellbeing.

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Resources to create
an Attachment-
Informed, Trauma
Sensitive, Nurturing
Environment



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ALL BEHAVIOUR IS
COMMUNICATION

The language of PPPRUDB refers to **distressed** behaviour rather than **challenging** behaviour

We recognise that distressed behaviours are responses to anxiety, confusion, vulnerability and a range of other needs.

Some children may have limited speech and language and communicate their needs through behaviour.

All our staff have a responsibility to try and understand the reasons behind behaviour and build a positive relationship with every child.



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Managing Distressed Behaviour

- All schools use the staged intervention framework to identify , assess, plan and monitor any support for children.
- Schools can adapt the environment ,the curriculum, teaching approaches, use interventions like nurture groups or small group teaching.
- Staff will track incidents of distressed behaviour and look for patterns.
- Schools can refer to other professionals: Educational Psychologists, Speech and Language, Camhs, Social work.
- Some children will have a BASP (Behaviour Assessment and Support Plan). This is a risk assessment to help minimise incidents of distressed behaviour.
- This plan will be regularly reviewed and adapted.

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Duty of Care in SLC...

- The law recognizes that there may be times teachers need to physically intervene to keep children and staff safe. If a teacher reasonably believes a child is at risk of harming themselves or others they may have to physically intervene—e.g. to break up a fight, to stop a young child running out of the building. Our guidance for staff is to use this only as last resort.



If a member of staff has to intervene to keep your child safe they will notify you as soon as possible. Incidents are also logged with H.Q.

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Anti-Bullying

- As part of our relationship based approach we have a big focus on tackling prejudice, fostering tolerance and educating pupils about diversity.
- The Scottish Government produces guidelines: *Respect for All: National Approach to Anti-Bullying*.
- South Lanarkshire's Guidance is *Treat Me Well*. A copy is available on the Council Website.
- The National guidance will be updated in 2024/25 and we will revise our guidelines.
- All schools will have their own anti-bullying policy-this should be accessible for parents.
- All incidents of bullying are recorded on the Seemis Bullying and Equalities Module to allow for monitoring and tracking.

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Supports for Schools

- PPRUDB Guidelines for establishments
- Operating Procedures for Additional Support Needs
- Training organised by Inclusive Education Services
- Training, advice and guidance from Psychological Services
- Accreditation award for attachment informed, trauma sensitive schools to work towards
- Attachment Ambassador networking events to share practice
- Induction programmes for School Support Staff
- Social Work Early Help Hub Approach

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