



**Partnership Group
AGM Minutes
2nd Sept 2025**



Present

Office bearers:	Staff:	Attendees:
Mrs E Dempsie (Chair)	Mrs W Gallacher (Acting Headteacher)	Mrs K Neill Ms S Quigley Mrs L Marshall Mrs A White
Mr S Smith (Secretary)	Mrs L McKie	
	Church representative: Mrs V Stewart	

1. Welcome & Apologies

- Mrs Dempsie welcomed all
- Apologies received from Mrs Lockhart

2. Chairperson's report – overview of role of Partnership Group and activities in previous year

- Mrs Dempsie gave an overview of the Group's role
- Our activities and successful fundraising over the past year include the Summer Disco, the Halloween Disco and the Christmas Fayre.

3. Treasurer's report

- The current balance is £1664.88 which includes £118 of Garden funding, so our working balance is £1546.88.

4. Nominations & appointment to 2024/25 partnership group roles

- Chairperson – Mrs Dempsie (re-elected)**
Proposer – Mr Smith Second – Mrs Gallacher
- Secretary – Mr Smith (re-elected)**
Proposer – Mrs Dempsie Second – Mrs Gallacher
- Treasurer – Mrs Lockhart (re-elected)**
Proposer – Mrs Dempsie Second – Mr Smith
- Parish Representative – Mrs Stewart (re-elected)**
Proposer – Fr Sean

A discussion about what was required for the roles on the Group was had with the parents present as this will be Mrs Dempsie and Mr Smith's last year taking on the elected roles of the Group.



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5. Head Teacher's report

- Primary 1 Learners

We are delighted with how well our Primary 1 pupils have settled into life at St John's. They are working hard to learn our school rules and routines with Primary 2 and Primary 3 pupils acting as role models.

- School Roll

Unfortunately, we have seen a further drop in our school roll from 72 to 62. We continue to have 3 classes and class sizes are 20/21.

- School Calendar

A full-year school calendar has now been shared with families. This will be updated as needed throughout the year, with key dates and reminders communicated weekly via our School Newsletter. We encourage all families to check regularly to stay informed of upcoming events and activities.

- Standards & Quality Report

Mrs Gallacher has shared a detailed SWAY presentation outlining our Standards and Quality Report. This includes a review of our School Improvement targets for 2024/25, highlighting the progress made and the impact on learning and teaching. A parent-friendly version of our improvement priorities for 2025/26 is also available. Both documents can be accessed on the school website and we welcome feedback from our parent community.

- Mrs Neill asked if any information about the Head Teacher post was available. Mrs Gallacher said there was no news at present.

- Mrs Gallacher requested £200 from the Group for ingredients for the popular Cooking Class as part of Fun 31 on Friday afternoons. She also requested help to pay for a bus for the School Pantomime trip; an application will be made to the Kirkmuirhill & Blackwood Coordination Group for a £500 grant with the remainder paid for by the Partnership Group.



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6. 2024/25 plan of activity

a. Meeting dates

- Mr Smith confirmed the agreed dates of the meetings this academic year. Mrs Dempsie is unavailable for the next meeting (12th November) but after a discussion it was agreed to keep the date as it is most suitable for the majority of parents present.
- A discussion arose concerning the most suitable night for most parents. Mr Smith and Mrs Dempsie explained that the meetings used to rotate on different nights to try and suit everyone's availability, but it did not affect which parents did attend. However, this was several years ago, and the parent makeup has changed since then, so a rota of nights could be explored (although notice would be required to the school in order to arrange staff availability).

b. Fundraising activity ideas

- A range of different fundraising ideas were discussed for next session including sponsored events, football cards, a Bonus Ball and the use of the Easyfundraising App.
- Mrs Neill offered to investigate the Tesco Community Grant and liaise with Nora (a former pupil of St John's).
- Mr Smith will investigate the Asda Cashpot scheme again which raised £183.49 last year.
- The upcoming Halloween Disco in the school hall (Tues 28th October; 6:30pm) will be £2 entry.

7. School Garden Update

- Mrs Stewart has applied for £6200 from SLC through windfarm funding which has paid for the complete living roof of the garden shed and taming of the wild garden.
- 250 bulbs have been requested from Keep Scotland Beautiful.
- An application for £250 has been submitted to the Co-Op Community Fund to fix solar lights broken in the storm and make further improvements to the garden.
- The next part of the project is the gazebo.
- Mrs Stewart praised the Men Shed for their support and contribution to the project.
- Pupils have suggested various ideas for the final area of the garden including solar panels to pump water to a sink to wash hands and a wildlife library.



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- John from It's Our Neighbourhood came out recently to assess the garden and was very complimentary. The outcome of the assessment should be announced in November.
- The Climate Action event is scheduled for 12th September 1-3pm which will host BECA, the local Bee Man, a birdbox building workshop and the community police.
- Mrs Stewart requested £30 from the Group to pay for winter plants to brighten the garden in the autumn/winter months.

8. AOCB (Any Other Competent Business)

- The Community Police would be happy to come to a school event (such as the Summer Fayre) to take part in community initiatives e.g. marking bikes
- Mrs Gallacher stated it is not her intention to use BlueSky social media app as groups cannot be made closed. Instagram might be a viable option, but the weekly SWAY newsletters would continue as a method of communication to parents.
- Mrs Gallacher also reminded the group of the need to have our accounts audited for the past year.

Date of next meeting - 6.30pm, Wednesday 12th September 2025