



**Partnership Group
Minutes
12th November 2025**

Present

Office bearers:	Staff:	Attendees:
Mr S Smith (Secretary)	Mrs G McLaughlin (Acting Headteacher) Mrs L Kelly	Mrs L Marshall Mrs A White Mrs C Medeiros Mr H Medeiros
	Church representative: Mrs V Stewart	

1. Welcome & apologies

Mr Smith welcomed all. Apologies received from Mrs E Demspie, Mrs L Lockhart and Mrs K Neill.

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

Mr Smith reported that the Asda Cashpot is not running this year.
Other fundraising ideas continue to be explored.

Mrs McLaughlin advised the group that Parent Pay can be set up for parents/carers to pay money to/support the Partnership Group

Mrs White raised the possibility of Instagram being used in place of Twitter(X)/Bluesky as other schools used Instagram. Mrs McLaughlin was open to the possibility, but would have to consider staff workload issues and would consult with parents/carers through a survey

3. Headteacher's report

- SCHOOL ROLL - Currently 63:

P1-7 P2-6 P3-15 P4-9 P5-7 P6-9 P7-10

- SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

SQIP Priority 1 - To improve LTA in numeracy and writing through developing a consistent approach to quality feedback for learners.

•Whole-staff self-evaluation session completed - audit toolkit for Learning, Teaching and Assessment.

•Professional dialogue - Staff examined examples of effective success criteria and feedback strategies.

•Review of current practice / Moderation of Literacy/Numeracy and Writing Jotters.

Next step: To review the school Learning, Teaching & Assessment Policy, considering discussions.



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SQIP Priority 2 - Inquire To Inspire

- All staff have participated in 4 CLPL sessions delivered by SLC.
- Currently planning showcase event - Scottish Café on 27th November in Parish Hall.

Next Steps: Review of planning and tracking documents. Implementing strategies from CLPL.

SQIP Priority 3: Promoting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Through Gospel Values

- We have begun to identify and source a diverse range of novels to ensure a novel study with this theme is completed at least once in a school year by all P4-7 pupils
- All teaching staff have completed GTC Professional Learning Module 1: Introduction to equality and diversity (Module 2 Reflecting on equality and diversity as teachers in a diverse Scotland to be complete)

Next Steps: Review school resources to ensure they effectively promote diversity, respect and understanding.

• LOCHWOOD PUPIL STORAGE UNIT

The school was presented with a key to use a new storage unit for outdoor learning equipment during teaching blocks.

• BLACKWOOD PRIMARY 150TH CELEBRATION

A group of pupils, accompanied by Mrs Carty, visited the exhibition and gave a Celebration Rose as a gift on behalf of our school community. Pupils enjoyed the visit and were delighted to see themselves in some of the nursery photos.

• HEALTH AND SAFETY INSPECTION

Carried out on 6th October.

• PVG CHECKS

Updated guidance issued to HTs. Check status for school discos.

Partnership group to register with Volunteer Scotland

• SECOND CHANCE (KIRKMUIRHILL) LIMITED

£500 donation to support families.

• BLACKWOOD & KIRKMUIRHILL COORDINATION GROUP

£500 Grant to support transport costs for the Panto.



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4. Treasurer's report

£127.72 raised from Halloween Disco which covered the costs of the DJ, decorations and snacks.

Current balance is £2928.38 which, with £1380 ringfenced for the Garden from grants, leaves our balance at £1548.38.

5. Christmas Fayre (Sunday 30th November)

Plans were shared with the group about the format for the Fayre. The Men Shed, Glainne Mara, Mini Vinnies, School crafts and another local craft business have been confirmed (Mrs Hall is still to confirm). Mrs White will help Mrs Smith with serving home baking and tea/coffee. Mrs Stewart will be Santa's Little Helper. Mr Smith will coordinate the raffle. Mrs Medeiros volunteered to dress as an Elsa princess and do glitter tattoos/photo-opportunity.

Mrs McLaughlin will share requests for raffle prizes and home baking donations with parents/carers whilst Mr Smith will do the same on the Facebook page and ask Fr Sean to inform parishioners in the bulletin.

6. Cost of the School Day Policy

Mrs McLaughlin raised an inconsistency in the terminology being communicated through school documentation about free school meals (including on trips/residentials) as to whether we will 'pay completely' or 'subsidise'. Most schools in the authority 'subsidise' which all parents/carers present agreed would be the terminology to clarify.

The policy of St John's is to support **any** parent/carer who needs support, even temporarily.

7. School Garden Update

Mrs Stewart reported that the gazebo work has begun, and the 'wild garden' is now a 'wildflower garden'.

Ideas for garden maintenance were discussed such as involving pupils doing the Pope Francis Award in addition to parishioners.

"Community Payback" could be explored for spring garden work.

The Keep Scotland Beautiful report on the garden was glowing and Mrs McLaughlin thanked Mrs Stewart for all her hard work on the garden.



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8. Solar Farm/BESS planning application Update

Mrs Stewart reported to the group that a local councillor attempted to amend the Solar Farm proposal at the Council, but this was not accepted. The proposal also wrongly claimed there would be 3000 solar units rather than the projected 300,000.

A Children's Rights Welfare Assessment could be requested to include the pupil's input.

9. Any parent issues/suggestions for discussions:

- **Head Teacher permanent position**

Currently advertised with a closing date of Nov 19th. Interviews would hopefully be early December.

- **Netball/Football team kit upgrade (including a variety of sizes)**

A parent has already put in a sponsorship bid through Arnold Clark for the football team. Mr Smith will liaise with the parent to see if a similar bid could be pursued for the netball team. If this doesn't work, the group could email local businesses (e.g. Patersons) for sponsorship.

- **Personalised children's Christmas Cards**

Christmas cards will be made by pupils for the School Christmas crafts stall at the Christmas Fayre, but there will not be personalised cards made by pupils (as has been the case in previous years).

However, Mrs McLaughlin stated that in future, this could be explored with cheaper options such as the Group purchasing materials and printing on the school printers.

- **Date for Christmas Café**

There will be no Christmas café as this is rotated every 2 years.

10. AOCB

Mrs McLaughlin raised the prospect of the traditional residential trip being discussed early in 2026 to give plenty of time for parents/carers to be able to begin a payment plan of £20/month for 2026-2027 cohort. Alternatives could be explored in addition to Lockerbie Manor. A consultation with current P5/6 parents could assess parental views.

Date of next meeting - 6:30pm, Wednesday 21st January 2026