



Holyrood RC Secondary School Parent Council

Minutes of Meeting - 27th Nov 2018

Agenda

Action

1. **Opening prayer:**
The meeting was opened with the school prayer.

Apologies for late cancellation last week, clashed with S1 Parents Information Evening for P7's.
2. **Welcome and apologies**
Welcome from PT.
3. **Approval of Previous Minutes**
 - Approved and seconded.
 - Reminder to all PC to check and use new school website and app.
 - Those teachers who are taking part in the Learning and Teaching programme in Holyrood are currently working on their presentations for GTC recognition.
4. **EAL PT - Karen Cooper**
 - Mrs Cooper was invited to discuss her role in the school with the PC.
 - Mrs Cooper was appointed in August. There are 68 different languages within in the school.
 - 74 pupils - new to English.
 - 135 pupils - Early Acquisition
 - 269 pupils - Developing Competence
 - Therefore there is a big challenge for lots of learners and staff in the school.
 - Currently are very lucky with the EAL staffing; 1PT plus 3.8 teachers. Plus the EAL Service also provide 0.4 + 0.6.
 - Previously the model used was EAL learners came to the base and worked from there. This model was previously used very successfully in Shawlands Academy before the base was closed down.
 - Lots of research shows this is now no longer Best Practice.
 - Pupils needs to be out engaging with their peers.
 - All staff are currently trying to come up with the strategy that works best for Holyrood.
 - All pupils go straight into classroom supported by EAL teachers where possible. Only in the base for 2-3 days (whatever is appropriate) then buddied up and go to classes.
 - Lots of texts used are made accessible for these pupils.
 - Planned group and one-to-one extraction does still take place to develop literacy / talk skills.
 - The new Primary PT works closely with EAL teachers.
 - Raising Attainment is a key focus and 3 principles are the focus; Nurture Principles, Focus on Literacy & Talk and Culture of Collegiate Cooperation.
 - Nurture - the school has to be a place pupils want to come and want to attend. We must ensure their culture is respected, accepted and welcomed. Their values must be respected, as is stated in Holyrood's

Vision Statement.

- Literacy & Talk - Lots of work going on with primary PT. Pupils need basic literacy to engage with the curriculum.
- Culture of Collegiate Cooperation - Change in the way we work in the classroom. It must be differentiated for these pupils to help them engage.
- There are lots of bilingual learners who are coping very well, but need support to reach their full potential.
- This is being achieved by:-
- Putting EAL teachers into classes to support where possible (particularly those that are more language dependent, English, Social Studies, Science etc)
- Supporting pupils with their folios in English Language.
- English Higher will not be achievable for many - ensure ESOL classes are available which is a great help to these learners.

Moving Forward

- Going to make links with Skills Development Scotland.
- Widen the Curriculum - some pupils need different achievement routes.
- More links with the community - there is already lots going on in the community, need to ensure we are engaging and working with them.
- A Strong PC is also a great help and there are many community links to offer.
- PC member asks if other bilingual learners help those who are new to English in the school? Yes, same as lots of other areas in the school, they act as mentors where appropriate.
- Glasgow Life set up a great programme with 'Metafrog Publishers'. They produced graphic novels, particularly targeted at Roma pupils.
- Pupils draw out their story and then it is scaffolded. EAL teacher helps pupils build their story and over a 20 week period pupils create a novel in their own language and in English. Was a great project.
- A PC member asks if the school has better links with school nursing, particularly with EAL pupils in mind? Mrs Watson discusses that she attends Govanhill Community Group and the NHS are involved in this.
- There has now been an ELO appointed. They are currently an ELO and an ex-police officer so hopefully all these skills will be a great help.
- Mrs Watson discusses with the PC the importance of Karen and her team and what a fantastic job they do in the school. There is already a marked improvement and a big thank you is needed. Their work is pivotal.
- PC discuss the need to have a more diverse Parent Council. Karen said she can offer some training to possibly help with this.
- A PC member explains that her primary school have lots of great volunteers in school but they do not want to attend formal PC meetings. Need to look into how we can make it work for Holyrood.
- Mrs Watson will discuss this tomorrow with Primary Head colleagues at LC meeting. Engagement of parents is definitely an area to be worked on.
- Mrs Watson discussed that for a specific meeting Mr Roy personally communicated with some parents and it did have an impact on attendance - possibly can look into this again.
- Communication for all Parents about PC Meetings etc. is vital. Need to publicise dates of meetings better.

5. MCR Pathways

- Motivated, Commitment, Resilient.
- Ashleigh Donaldson from MCR Pathways is here to speak about the

- programme with PC.
- The programme began 11 years ago, however only started in Holyrood in March. It is now rolled out in every school in Glasgow and is being rolled out across Scotland.
- The basis is to improve the staying on educational attainment of pupils. Mainly those who have been in care, however other circumstances are included.
- There are currently 23 mentors in Holyrood.
- PC are shown some figures on attainment Pre and Post MCR.
- Massive improvements in attainment are visible, staying on rates and positive destinations also all increase. It is all about helping young people as individuals.
- Mentors are a mixture of male and female, however there are a lot more female mentors.
- There are many benefits for the mentors, not just the pupils.
- There is also an Ambassadors programme. This again is all based around the young people. There are currently 4 ambassadors in Holyrood.
- Mentors do receive training and lots of support is available.
- Pupils do have to fit into categories to be selected; care-experienced, young-carers, addiction issues in family and also must have 80% attendance in school.
- It is a 50 minute a week time slot.
- The programme is evaluated. There is a hub in the Mitchell Library. 4 reviews a year take place.
- Mentors are asked for a minimum of one year commitment.
- Lots of work is put into pairing mentors and pupils to ensure it is the correct match.
- Referrals go through Pastoral Care.
- All PC agree sounds like a great programme and hope many more mentors are able to join.
- Paul thanks Ashleigh for attending the meeting and providing information.

AOCB

- Reception Update:
- Front doors are linked to reception. Panic Button and CCTV are to be fitted very soon.
- Hopefully the new doors and these things will be in place for January.
- PE link will take a little longer but will hopefully be not too long after January.
- Control will be on during the school day.
- Duke of Edinburgh
- A huge congratulations to Duke of Edinburgh staff and pupils - Keeley Smith was awarded Leader of the Year. Fantastic for the school.
- PC member asks if Silver/Gold can be completed in school after doing bronze?
- In S3 it is an elective. It will become a class that is available during PSE for silver/gold. Should be available from May onwards.
- Supported Study
- PC discuss that this year there is an immense list - great to see. However is this possibly putting too much pressure on students? Some feel they need to attend all.
- Mrs Watson assures parents this is not the message coming from school. Pupils were advised to target Amber and Red subjects from tracking.
- Trying to give pupils the opportunity to attend as many classes as they want to - but are absolutely not pressured.

- Attending certain topics within a subject is also a great offer.
- Huge thanks to Laura Farrell for putting the programme together.
- Laura Farrell has been doing the acting head position for the last 3 week and did a fabulous job. A big thanks for all her hard work.
- Consistent help from subjects is discussed by PC. Some subjects offer parents great websites / strategies to work on at home, others do not.
- Mrs Watson will discuss this with Mr Cahill and try to ensure a more consistent approach across all depts.

- ALL S4's have received a Stress Management Class. Lessons seemed very supportive and will help address Mental Health of all pupils.

- Mrs Watson discusses that the Mentoring Programme started a little earlier this year, however feedback is that it was maybe too early. In future going to start in January. Lots of development of programme that needs to take place.

- Lockers: A PC member mentions that S3 still have not been allocated lockers. Mrs Watson said she was under the impression this was all resolved. Any pupils otherwise should go to Mrs Gardiner ASAP to rectify.

- S1 tracking is due to go home the day before Christmas Holidays.

- S3 Tracking. A few parents mention they did not receive all subjects. Mrs Watson assures parents this has been rectified and was simply a technological issue.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 22nd Jan ~ 7pm
 Tuesday 12th March ~ 7pm
 Tuesday 30th April ~ 7pm.

Mr Toland thanks all for attending.

