

## Parent Focus Group

October 19

### Group 1

Attendance – A Byrne DHT

Parent Agency : 14 parents attended

### Agenda

School Standards

Pupil planner

Support for Pupils (pastoral / year team)

Tracking and Monitoring

SQA Results

Parent Engagement

SIP

### Minute

- **Standards** – discussion on uniform. Parents happy with the high standards of uniform and how this is represented in the community. Parents described uniform playing a part in why pupils come to the school. Parents talked about the history of the uniform in Holyrood and the pride associated with this. Parents mentioned none of their children have issue with wearing the blazer. They appreciated text updates regarding school standards from DHT.
- **Planners**- discussion around the use of the planner. How this can be used as a tool of communication between home and school (teachers / PTPC / DHT). Some parents were better than others at using this but are now aware they can. All parents now aware that the planners are signed on a Friday. Some parents felt their child may be able to keep their own records without parental checks. A Byrne discussed the idea of the learning conversations that may take place around the diary with each subject. Parents thought this was very worthwhile.  
Parents liked the text communication of the planners and knowing teachers were putting comments into them and checking them.
- **Ipad Roll Out** – Parents were very encouraged by the Ipad roll out and keen to discuss how this will impact on their children. There was discussion about the use of Ipads in classes and home. A lot of excitement around this. Parents did mention concerns around handwriting and this could be a lost art form. Questions raised about SQA exams how the exams may change going forward in terms of Ipads. Parents picked up that use of Ipads and digital moves forward don't help young people with spelling and this was concerning.

- **SIP-** A Byrne discusses school priorities with parents and there was discussion around school priorities over the year. Parents asked questions around mental health and how pressures impact on their children. We talked of being a school of nurture and parents were aware of this.
- **Parent Engagement-** we talked about the importance of parent involvement and the impact on attainment. Parents did not offer ideas on how to engage them more but were keen to be more involved. They like the idea of more exhibitions to showcase pupils / families work and our Games Night, this appeared popular.