



St Mary's RC Primary School Parent Council Annual Report 2015-16

Dear Parent Forum Member

Welcome to the Annual Report of St Mary's RC Primary School Parent Council.

The Parent Council has been chaired by Phil Larkman. Membership included Dervilla Bray, Aileen Doctor, Barbara Hippe, Kevin Rettie, Sharon Ritchie, Allan Moore, and Ian Campbell as parent/carer members alongside Eimear Brownen (Teacher Representative) and Lynn Soulsby (Support Staff Representative). Helena McHugh has undertaken the teacher representative role while Eimear Brownen has taken maternity leave. Liz Syme has acted as clerk to the Council. Michael McHugh has been confirmed as the Catholic Church representative.

Since September of last year your Parent Council has been working with the School and East Lothian Council covering a range of issues that affect our children. The School continues to prosper under the direction of the head teacher, Claire Graham, and the staff of the school. The recent School Curriculum evening highlighted the implementation of the school development plan in particular focusing on issues that will develop the learning and skills of all pupils.

There has also been a focus on improving communication with parents and carers as part of this Development Plan. The aim has been and continues to be to get parents and carers more engaged with consultation and the daily life of the school. Again, at the recent curriculum evening the school reached out to parents and carers to volunteer small amounts of time to engaging with school activities. Similar issues have exercised the thoughts of members of the Parent Council throughout the last year. How to increase engagement of parents and carers in Parent Council activities beyond the small group of people currently involved is a challenge. We will look to vary our meeting times and also, in combination with the PTA, have a presence at other scheduled school events such as parents' evenings where we can explain the role we play and our involvement within the school.

Continuing in the same vein the Parent council have over the year reviewed their activities in line with a sent a self-regulated Health Check guide for Parent Councils produced by the Scottish Parent Teacher Council (SPTC). This aims to identify how effectively groups are run. A key outcome of this review indicates that the lines of communication between the PC and the Parent Forum need addressing. The school has taken the initiative here in inviting parents and carers to subscribe to the school Groupcall messaging system and maintaining an up to date calendar of events on Google Calendar found on the school website. It is the aim of the Parent Council to engage with these lines of communication to further explain the role of the Parent Council to parents and carers and encourage them to attend meetings.