



## St Mary's RC Primary School Parent Council Annual Report 2014-15

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 with Tom Robertson as Vice-Chair. 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). Liz Syme has acted as clerk to the Council. There have been ongoing deliberations concerning the position of Catholic Church representative. Our Parish Priest, Canon McMullan, agreed that we look to appoint a new representative and to this end we identified and approached Michael McHugh. There is still some confusion about whether this has been approved by the Church but we will attempt to confirm this as soon as possible.

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 year saw Mrs Buechart move to the nursery and Mr Tierney appointed to the staff initially on a year contract and now from September 2015 a permanent basis. Staff have invested a substantial amount of time in developing Accelerated Reader and Big Writing across the whole school. In terms of reading, a cohesive and progressive programme has been developed, which has made a big difference in targeting and attainment. Heinemann Maths has also been introduced and working groups have been set up to look at resources for Maths and Health and Well-being.

The School has been warmly embraced by our new Parish Priest, Canon McMullan, and school Masses have been re-introduced on a regular basis.

Over the year we have engaged with a number of different agencies aimed at enhancing the pupil experience. Caroline Harris from (ABEL), discussed with us the development of pupils in working amicably together, as well as teaching them to become more resilient. We also discussed plans to enhance the transition experience of pupils (and parents) from St Mary's to Knox Academy particularly in hosting a P7/S1 transition evening at which representatives from ABEL, primary schools, guidance staff, and Musselburgh Grammar's Ambassador for Child Exploitation and Online Protection Agency (CEOP) would be represented. Internet safety will also be discussed at the evening.

The Parent Council have actively engaged with the School on defining the school's values and aims in particular, focusing on Rights Respecting Schools and have provided input into a School Vision Statement, and are in the process of putting together a 'Child Wheel' and an 'Adult Wheel' highlighting eight indicators of the aims and values of the school.

We continue to make representations on your behalf, specifically with a view to improving the education and welfare needs of our children. Please keep in mind we represent you! That said, to do this, we depend upon your feedback, your comments, your suggestions and your ideas. This will be especially important over the next year.