



Meeting Of Parents Association 13th September 2018

A meeting of the Parents Association took place in the school on Thursday 13th September 2018

Attendance:

Fiona Herbst, Margaret Black, Noreen Mills, Lorna Kemp, Paul Gallagher, Kathleen Mallon, Deirdre Mc Cormick, Marjolein Bradley, Tracey Mc Bride, Edward Mc Devitt, Thomas Carr, Helen Cannon, Clive Doherty, Sharon Cannon, Mary Mc Grenra & Helen Hayes Sweeney.

Margaret O Connor – Principal

John Lynch – Staff Member

Apologies:

Grace Shiels, Patricia Orsi, Noreen O Neill, Paul O Neill.

Minutes:

The minutes of the previous meeting were distributed. All minutes are available on the school website.

Matters Arising:

Music had been made available as a subject for Leaving Cert. 2020. This had been in doubt at the last meeting due to the small number of pupils expressing an interest in the subject.

The issue of Spanish being oversubscribed for incoming 1st Years was satisfactorily resolved.

The Book Sale by Leaving Cert students had once again been successful.

Correspondence:

Email from Margaret Donnelly (Teacher) re 1st years experiencing difficulties with buses arriving just before registration & departing quickly at 4pm. It was felt that once 1st years grew accustomed to the new routine, this should no longer present a problem.

Letter from National Parents Council re new GDPR. It was decided that the Secretary should email the NPC opting out of their emails as the Parents Association was not affiliated to the NPC.

Religious Education:

As per direction from the Department of Education & Skills, the school was required to liaise with parents re the provision of Religious Instruction/Education. The school offered Religious Education which was a broad overview of Religion & not one particular faith. Alternatives to school masses etc were offered to those of other faiths.

Similar consultation was to be undertaken re Data Protection, Mobile Phones & School Uniform.

Permission re Data Protection issues such as photos etc was now sought on enrolment from all parents.

The Principal told the meeting that Mobile Phones were now a useful tool for class & for homework & that there were very few negative issues regarding the use of mobile phones by the student body. The new WiFi system could support up to 1000 devices. The policy for the use of mobile phones remains the same ie that they should be used solely for educational purposes – a letter to this effect to be signed by both parent & child.

It was agreed by those in attendance that the school uniform was of a high quality & represented very good value for money. The Principal told the meeting that there had never been an issue re the cost of the uniform.

Meeting Of 1st Year Parents:

A meeting with 1st Year Parents would take place in the school on Monday 24th September. Members of the Parents Association would be in attendance & a flyer would be available giving information & contact details.

Any Other Business:

The issue of School Transport had caused a lot of confusion & upset again this year. A committee had been established in the Kilmacrennan area & it was decided that the Secretary should email the committee with an expression of support. It was also agreed to send a letter or email to the Department of Education & Skills on the matter. The unpredictability & the last minute notification of families was of particular concern.

Other issues raised included the late allocation of lockers to 2nd Year Students, the weight of schoolbags, exacerbated by the use of hardback copies (although their durability was acknowledged), the fact that perhaps incoming 1st years might receive more information as to what exactly they would need re copies etc for the start of the school year.

The date for the next meeting is Thursday 22nd November at 7.30pm