



### **Meeting Of Parents Association 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019**

A meeting of the Parents Association took place in the school on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019

#### **Attendance:**

Patricia Orsi, Lorna Kemp, Noreen Mills, Margaret Black, Helen Cannon, Claire Neely, Clive Doherty & Helen Hayes Sweeney.

#### **Apologies:**

Margaret O Connor (Principal)

John Lynch (Staff Member)

#### **Minutes:**

The minutes of the previous meeting were distributed

All minutes are available on the school website.

#### **Matters Arising:**

No update re parking.

The water fountains had proved a great success. Would a third fountain be useful/necessary?

Plans for an extension had been agreed with the Department of Education & Skills.

Representatives of the Parents Association had attended the meeting for 1<sup>st</sup> Year parents & taken contact details of new parents who were interested in becoming involved in school activities. It was agreed that the Secretary would send them a 'welcome text'.

### **Correspondence:**

As per email from Ms. Mc Fadden: The Statement of Strategy for School Attendance was circulated & there were no issues with this.

### **School Musical:**

It was agreed that a WhatsApp group be set up for the purposes of organising hospitality & parking for the musical, using phone numbers already provided to the Parents Association. The school would be asked to email parents asking for help with parking, home baking, refreshments etc.

### **Junior Cert Mock Exams- Value for Money:**

As the Leaving Cert & Junior Cert mock exams were marked by external examiners, it was proving very costly despite the financial contribution made by parents. The school is exploring all options, including the practices of other schools & wondered if the parents felt that there was a need for Junior Cert mocks as continuous assessment comprised a sizeable proportion of the exams. The consensus, at the meeting, was that the mocks were an invaluable 'dry run' for the actual exam & should remain.

### **Any Other Business:**

Deep concerns were expressed regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Year School Tour. The timing of the trip, the limited numbers & the lack of direct communication with parents were the main areas of concern. Those parents present accepted that a unique set of circumstances had led to a difficult situation for all concerned & that this would not be the case in future.

Some parents were still not receiving emails.

The staggered lunch break meant a very long afternoon for senior students which parents felt impacted on concentration levels during the last classes of the day.

6th Year students were being asked to 'teach' the PE classes. Some pupils felt they weren't confident doing this. Parents had concerns re safety even though teachers remained with the class.

Career Guidance for Leaving Cert students was a concern for some parents. Could the Compass system be used to alert parents of Open Days, important dates etc as many parents felt unable to advise & assist their children in this regard.

No date was fixed for the next meeting.