

Parent Council Questionnaire Analysis

February

2013

Analysis of returned November 2012 Parent Council Questionnaires

Version 1.01



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Background

The Parental Involvement Act made changes to the arrangements for parental representation in all schools. In August 2007 Parent Councils became the representative body for parents.

Parent councils are a way for schools to encourage more parents to get involved in school life. They are informal groups where parents are able to raise issues, be consulted on school policy and give their views.

The Parent Council of St Fillan's Primary School is accountable to the Parent Forum of St Fillan's Primary School and will represent their views.

All parents and carers who have a child enrolled at St Fillan's Primary School are automatically a member of the Parent Forum. As members they have:

- a right to advice and information about their child's education at the school
- · the opportunity to be more involved with what the school is doing
- the opportunity, along with all the other parents to have their views represented through the Parent Council.

With these considerations in mind the Parent Council annually issue two questionnaires to the Parent Forum. The purpose being to obtain the views of the wider Parent Form on how well they believe the school is performing and how well they feel they are being represented by the Parent Council. The two questionnaires are available from the school office throughout the year and can be completed anytime and posted in the Parent Council mailbox. A third questionnaire was included this year and handed out at the recent parent night with the existing two questionnaires to consult and collate feedback in relation to the school uniform.

There was an excellent response to the questionnaires. Underlining how engaged our parents are with their children's education. The responses are detailed within the following pages with further commentary in the form of an analysis of what was returned.



Parent Consultation Questionnaire (1) - Results

		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	Blank
1.	The school helps my child to be more confident.	67	84	1	1	1	
2.	My child enjoys learning at school.	80	71	1	1	1	
3.	My child's learning is progressing well.	84	65	2	2	2	
4.	My child is encouraged and stretched to work to the best of their ability.	72	76	1	3	2	
5.	The school keeps me well informed about my child's progress.	52	87	9	3	3	
6.	My child feels safe at school.	86	65	1	1	2	
7.	My child is treated fairly at school.	77	70	1	1	6	
8.	I feel staff really know my child as an individual and support them well.	67	70	4	1	12	
9.	My child benefits from school clubs and activities provided outside the classroom.	39	63	24	9	15	
10.	The school asks for my views.	40	92	14	2	4	
11.	The school takes my views into account.	32	78	16	1	26	
12.	The school is well led.	58	73	5	3	15	
13.	I believe the school helps my child to develop, grow and live the Catholic faith.	79	70	o	1	4	
14.	Overall, I am happy with the school.	83	67	4	1	0	



Parent Consultation Questionnaire (1) – Analysis

The parents are overwhelmingly positive about the school. More than 95% of the parents strongly agree or agree with the majority of the statements. The children continue to enjoy learning, are being encouraged to achieve their potential, and are happy and learning well.

The exception would appear to be communication. While still a very high percentage of parents agree their contact with the school is positive. When compared to the other questions there is a notable increase in the number of negative responses to the school keeping parents informed, asking for parents views and acting on them. The Parent Council will work alongside the senior managers of the school on how best to address these concerns.

Below is a list of the ways the school currently communicates with parents. The list is also included within the recent Term 3 Newsletter.

- Timely Newsletters and Updates.
- Meet The Teacher Evening (introduced August 2012 (Term 1)).
- Parents Evenings (Term 2 and 3).
- Reporting to Parents (Reports Term 4).
- Tree Of Knowledge / Learning Showcasing (Parent/Carers opportunity to observe and appreciate Learning and /teaching (Term 3)).
- Meetings Primary 7 Parents/Carers (Religious and Moral Education, Adventure Week, Holyrood Secondary Transition Programme).
- Meetings For Parents/Carers This is Our Faith with Mary O'Duffin Religious Education Advisor for Glasgow Archdioceses (Term 3).
- Parent/Carer Meetings for the Sacraments P3 and P4.
- Monthly Drop in Sessions (Opportunity for parents/carers to ask questions, resolve misunderstandings, express views, ideas and opinions).
- 'Parent Comment Section' on Newsletters (Opportunity to make known thoughts, ideas and opinions).
- Parent/Carer Workshops for P1 Curriculum for Excellence.
- Individual Parent/Carer Meetings Continuous update on progress.
- Individual Parent/Carer Meetings for children with Additional Support Plans.
- Individual Parent/Carer Meetings with outside agencies: Educational Psychologist, School Nurse, Speech and Language Therapists and Social Work.
- Texting Parent/Carers regarding attendance and urgent information.
- Open Door Policy
- School and Parent Council Website.
- School Reception Notice Board

We would encourage any suggestions from the Parent Forum on what else could be implemented to meet their needs. You can contact the school or Parent Council using the following:

Parent Council

- Email <u>mail@stfillanspc.co.uk</u>.
- School Reception PC Post-Box



School

- Internet <u>www.st-fillans-pri.glasgow.sch.uk/</u> (recommend you save to your favourites)
- Telephone school office 0141 637 8750.
- Drop In, the school has an open door policy. Arrangements will be made for a suitable time if it's impossible to meet with you there and then.

A reasonable percentage of parents would be keen to have the number of extracurricular activities increased. The Parent Council will investigate how best to achieve this. However, this may require some parents to get involved. If any parents can offer their time or expertise in a particular activity they should make themselves known to the school. The school has indicated a full review of offerings will take place.



Parent Consultation Questionnaire (2) - Results

Questions	YES	NO	N/A or Don't Know	Blank
Are you aware that a Parent Council is in place in?	145	2	1	13
Would you be interested in participating in/contributing to the Parent Council?		65	33	17
Are you aware of the Parent Council information / communication availa	ble and d	isplayed :	-	
website	138	5	1	17
School entrance noticeboard	108	27	2	24
School entrance PC post-box	60	64	8	29
Christ the King noticeboard	61	61	13	26
Are you satisfied with the current Parent Council Committee and their priorities and activities? (see latest Activity Tracker)	117	2	19	23
Have you ever communicated or raised an issue via the Parent Council?	21	121	5	14
If so, were they effective and helpful in dealing with your issue?	17	1	127	16
Would you be interested in the PC developing a Quarterly Newsletter to keep you more informed?	123	12	8	18
Did you find the Personal Learning Plan (PLP) process useful, informative and interactive with both your child and the school?	101	27	13	20

Please detail any areas that you would like the Parent Council to address / deal with or improve on behalf on the wider parent forum.

- * Would someone take the time to inform parents of what is happening instead of the constant rumours going around. i.e. uniform changes etc.
- * The PLP could have been explained better or in a separate letter to parents. I also feel for younger children small targets are more achievable than having several to work on throughout the term.
- * PLP poorly described, explained and very little time to fill in.
- * Traffic safety at the entrance i.e. lollipop man or restricted enforced parking.
- * PLP poor communication about how to fill in and children and parents unsure of the long term benefit.
- * If PC meetings could be on a different days of the week occasionally to allow others to attend.



- * Mark white lines for parents to stand behind for children coming out as gets very busy and children/parents can't see, and feel it's quite intimidating for children.
- * School crossing at corner of Crompton Ave and Old Castle Road.
- * The traffic on Crompton Ave at the bottom of Elmore Ave needs addressing. Children and their parents cannot cross safely.
- Class sizes, placing requests.
- * I think more talk has to go in to this uniform change. There is no need for this as long as kids are clean, tidy and in brown uniforms or blue sweatshirts. Then what does it matter?

Totally unimportant issues being addressed in what was a perfectly happy well run school.

- * Increase number of students in school. Lack of resource rooms.
- * Overcapacity due to playing requests and loss of specific rooms and how this may affect teaching the curriculum for excellence.
- * Update website more regularly.
- * PLP was a contrived exercise. Me and my children did not enjoy doing it. As a committed, loving parent I am looking for opportunities to help my children develop. This was not helpful!

I would prefer to receive emails form PC than paper.

- * I would like the infants (P2) to be given the opportunity to take part in the school physical activity clubs. There have been no clubs since the start of P1 apart from Saturday morning football organised by parents. Could PC find out if there is any funding available through the 2014 Commonwealth Games for such clubs.
- * PLP As parents we have enough homework to do with our children never mind a PLP!
- * A support/advice group for children with special learning needs.
- * The PLP was confusing even with the info included in the newsletter. I can see that it is a useful tool but more info is required.
- * Good Council for school.
- * More communication by email would be helpful and keep Parent Council issues to the fore.
- * To address the high number in the primary 1 roll which has a consequent negative impact on the St Fillan's experience through restricted space.



Parent Consultation Questionnaire (2) - Additional Comments / Views:

- * Q8 Too early to say.
- * Q8 Too early to say depends how it is used in the class/school.
- * Q2 Other regular communication on PC meeting dates have prevented attendance of meeting.
- * Q2 No time.
- * Q2 Yes, my husband would. Q3C - Never seen it.
- * Q4 Most of them.
- * Q8 See below.
- * Q3B But only know because I am involved.
 - Q3C But only know because I am involved.
 - Q3D But only know because I am involved.
 - Q8 Bit early to say.
- * Q2 If needed.
 - Q6 Not as yet (traffic)



Parent Consultation Questionnaire (2) – Analysis

Most parents are aware of the existence of the Parent Council and appreciate the work they undertake on their behalf. While only a fraction of parents have raised an issue through the Parent Council, all but one found them helpful with resolving their issue. All parents with concerns or issues are encouraged to approach any member of the Parent Council who will be more than happy to help them. A list of members and contact details are available online or on the school reception notice board. NB: Enquiries can be dealt with anonymously on their behalf if preferred.

A number of parents indicated they would be interested in participating/contributing to the Parent Council. Unless the Parent Council is discussing an issue which it considers should be dealt with on a confidential basis, the monthly meetings of the Parent Council are open to all members of the Parent Forum. All parents are welcome to attend. The only consideration would be seating and the Parent Council would ask any parent attending to contact the secretary, Liz Stewart < mail@stfillanspc.co.uk> to ensure the required seating is appropriate.

Most parents were aware information in relation to the Parent Council was available on the school website. The other places were not as well known. The different ways to find information in relation to the Parent Council are highlighted below and will be reminded in the future Quarterly Newsletter(s) which most parents indicated should be developed.

The Personal Learning Plan (PLP) process should be reviewed and where necessary adjusted to engage more of the parents who found the process unhelpful. The PLP is an intricate part of Curriculum For Excellence and it is in the interest of the children to have their parents fully participate in this activity. The Parent Council will work with the school on how best to engage and implement this requirement going forward.

On a final note It is worthy to mention that the Parent Council of St Fillans have previously been referenced as a case study during Glasgow City Council Education Services related training as a positive example, who demonstrate responsibilities and effectively manage all issues and communication on behalf of the wider Parent Forum, as per expectation and requirements.



Parent Consultation Questionnaire (3) - Results

BOYS	?	?	BLANK
Blazer with school badge	44	42	69
Outdoor school Jacket with badge	57	32	66
Brown Fleece with badge	44	41	70
Brown Trousers	91	2	62
Brown Shorts (seasonal)	50	40	65
Blue shirt with Tie*	75	15	65
Polo with school badge (PE only)	66	24	65
Brown V neck Jumper with blue stripe and badge	53	39	63
Brown V neck Sweatshirt with badge	47	43	65
Brown Cardigans with blue stripe and badge	37	53	65
Brown Tank Top with blue stripe and badge	52	38	65
Black PE shorts	59	33	63

GIRLS	?	?	BLANK
Blazer with school badge	60	40	55
Outdoor school jacket with badge	62	39	54
Brown Fleece with badge	55	56	44
Brown Skirt	105	4	46
Blue Gingham Dress (seasonal)	109	7	39
Blue shirt with Tie*	101	7	47
Polo with school badge (PE only)	76	27	52
Brown V neck Jumper with blue stripe and badge	50	56	49
Brown V neck Sweatshirt with badge	45	59	51
Brown Cardigans with blue stripe and badge	71	35	49
Brown Tank Top with blue stripe and badge	49	55	51
Black PE shorts	76	29	50

BOYS & GIRLS	?	?	BLANK
Black/brown shoes or trainers	138	16	1
Black/brown socks	134	21	0
Brown school Bag with badge	45	109	1

School Badge			
Original Badge (in use at present)	103		
Revised design – Brown with Blue Background	17		
Revised design – Blue with Yellow Background	7		
Blank	28		

^{*}P1 & P2 can wear polo's with badge on PE days only



Parent Consultation Questionnaire (3) - Additional Comments / Views:

- * I feel all the children should be allowed to wear polo shirts on PE days (to cut down on clothes being lost or mixed up) and especially as they get changed in class. If everyone has the same school bag total confusion!!!
- * Happy with current uniform but open to change.
- * Happy to support uniform policy but in extreme inclement weather they will need to wear a coat.
- * I do agree on full uniform don't think it needs to be changed at (No Suggestions).
- * Prefer to keep polo shirts for daily use.
- * Kids already dress to high standard and seem to be in uniform.
- * Glad this is being addressed by Parent Council
- * Feel that the addition of blue stripes is unnecessary and contributes nothing to my child's wellbeing and education. Trutex are grossly overpriced and poor quality.
- * To buy all items with badges greatly increase cost especially if buying for more than one child. The child's school bag is one the ways to show personality.
- * I feel it is important to identify the school and appreciate the school community and uniform.
- * This should be really nice.
- * I feel that enforcing a full uniform including jacket and bag and badged jumpers/t-shirts cost need to be more economical for families to afford and upkeep.
- * Think you're being too restrictive. Polo shirts are ideal for everyday wear not just PE. Also costs are higher to have all items with badges as these can only be bought in limited shops. Surely white socks with blue dresses!
- * I feel that as long as the jumpers/cardigans are brown then this is satisfactory. As a single parent with two children it can be costly to buy the full uniform with school badge.
- * Outdoor jackets must have hoods. No blazers please. It's more important that winter coats are warm and waterproof not just a school jacket. Cost should be a factor especially for badged items.
- * Current badge is excellent Important to be able to have options thus original polo and sweatshirt to be worn during the day. Helps routine for children with needs who would struggle with changing.



- * I would like the pale blue and brown sweatshirts / polo's to remain as part of the school uniform no change necessary.
- * Blazers not practical in wet weather. School jackets are too dark for winter mornings.
- * I am more than happy for my children to be wearing school uniforms coloured blue and brown. Although my children do have badged uniforms I do not understand why this is a must (if it is) and why the options above are badged specific only.
- * Existing Jumpers and cardigans with blue stripes are of very poor quality. They are also uncomfortable to wear because of the type of fabric (causing reactions to sensitive skins). Currently buying plain brown jumpers from M&S. Existing brown school bags also poor in quality (zip) and only lasts 1 year. However I agree with the school policy on uniforms. It would be good though if the jumpers could be available in different fabrics and from different supplier.
- * Expecting a badge on every item of clothing is too expensive and unfair for families with more than 1 child attending. Please remember this is not a private school. P1&P2 should be allowed to wear polo shirts daily as their dexterity with buttons is challenging enough, as are ties.
- * I feel that to impose the rule of badges on all jumpers is extreme and costly.
- * Blue striped jumpers/cardigans are too expensive.
- Children are entitled to some sort of individuality and should be allowed to choose own bag.
- * The blazer is not practical for our weather conditions, although, it looks very smart! It is also too much of an expense having two children at the school.
- * The blue sweatshirt and Polo shirt go well together for gym days and prefer this to the brown sweatshirt.
- * Feel that Trutex uniforms are poor quality, expensive and wash poorly. Wearing Trutex does not improve my child's wellbeing or education. Austere times do not require that I have to buy a new uniform.
- * More streamlined would be great and a clearer idea of what should be worn there are so many options at the moment.
- * This school has a great reputation in the wider community and this is as a direct result of the discipline and conduct of teachers and pupils. Changing the uniform will not enhance this.
- * Emphasis should not be put in shoes / socks etc. Bags should be optional.
- * Blue crewneck should be maintained. I prefer the polo shirts for everyday wear. They are cheaper, more comfortable and easier to care for. Not happy at all with a shirt and tie only as an accepted uniform.
- * I don't think it matters if it has the school badge on it as long as it is the school colours.



* Too much change for change sake without taking into account of parents' budget. Uniform fine as it is. No reasonable reason for change.

I am happy with the uniform we have at the moment.

- * I am happy and satisfied with the status quo.
- * Think in this current economic climate it is a farce to expect parents to ensure every piece of uniform must have a badge. It is far more economical to buy most of the uniform from Ads/M&S. As long as pupils wearing brown uniform that should be enough without bankrupting parents.
- * My Son comes to school clean and tidy in a brown uniform that suits my budget. I will not be changing this nor will I stop sending him to school in his polo shirt for gym days.
- * Don't think you need to change the uniform.
- * Is this what is really needed?
- * All children should wear polo on PE days reduces time getting changed at start/end which impacts children's time given for PE. Don't think colour of shorts or school bag option should even be considered. Better hood on outdoor jacket.
- * I have 2 sons at St Fillan's I buy both all brown and badged uniform but not the blue stripe brown jumper. It is badly made and goes out of shape in one wash Asda do a brown jumper for £4 which I will continue to buy my sons from now on and they will both wear polo shirts and sweatshirts when either of them have gym.
- * Blue crewneck sweatshirt a must. Strongly feel trainers should not be allowed apart from wearing on pitch day. Feel uniform at present completely satisfactory apart from trainers.
- * Current badge is recognisable and acceptable no need to change keep identity.
- * Blue sweatshirt preferred over brown sweatshirt. Siblings are blue so I will continue to use these.
- * I think cost of polo shirts with badges prohibitive for PE only. White socks with gingham dress preferable.
- * Why change? I don't feel there is any need to alter the current uniform standards in any way. I think the children are well turned out and I think having many different options (polo shirts/jumpers/fleeces/shirts/jackets) available to families is the most practical and affordable way forward. Many families can buy non-specific jumpers, jackets etc. cheaper in supermarkets/M&S. I think it is difficult to enforce "" specific uniform for families that can't afford it. Also many families hand uniform items down from child to child so changes in what is acceptable will impact on that too. I really feel that there is no need to change uniform at all. I don't think there is a need to "enhance our profile" via school uniform. The behaviour and decorum displayed by the children of (No Suggestions) already conveys what a lovely school they come from. How often do we teach our children "it's what's on the inside that counts"?



- * My daughter is in P3 and for her to change from shirt to polo on PE days would be very time consuming.
- * No comment
- * Like children wearing uniform but PE days should be polo shirts for school wear instead of changing clothes.
- * I feel that if the children are clean and warm then all forms of uniform are acceptable.
- * I would be disappointed if I could not use "hand me downs" if uniform changes. Particularly from an economic and ecological point of view.
- * I think the uniform is of a high standard at present. There is no need to change something for the sake of it. Cost will outweigh the benefits.
- * With 3 children at the school uniforms can be very expensive as you require a couple of changes throughout the school week. So for myself to buy all jumpers/cardigans/jackets/bags would be well out of my budget. I also think it would cause far too much confusion for children bringing home the right jacket / bag etc.
- * I think shirts and ties are unnecessary and uncomfortable in primary school children. I think blazers are expensive and impractical. I see no reason for a school jacket or bag either.
- * My child cannot wear school v neck jumper or tank top with badge as he has eczema and it itches him badly.
- * Yes to brown OR blue sweatshirt Polo shirt only with no badge. Brown bag with badge that we purchased is too small. Need white socks for girls when wearing blue dress.
- * Don't feel that every item of uniform needs school logos.
- * Get t-shirts in school colours.
- * The only think that should be required to have a badge should be a blazer. The rest should be optional but till be in school colours. Badged items are uneconomical.
- * I think shirt/tie should be optional to the individual.
- * All the kids doing PE should wear the polo shirt all day. There is a risk that clothes will be lost when changing to and from kit.
- * Too expensive to buy from Trutex.
- * Think this would be great.
- * Polo shirts all day PE days.



- * The option to wear polo shirts should be there at all times. I think the re-design of the badge is unnecessary.
- * Defo summer dresses and polo blue shirts.
- * I would prefer a blue polo shirt (child does not like shirts). I would prefer a plain brown cardigan/sweatshirt and badge (crewneck)
- * I believe that current uniform to be satisfactory. My son only wears blue polo shirt on PE days.
- * Plain brown cardigans for girls Navy or black PE shorts.
- * The badge is fine as is. As long as brown is used in uniform, some with badge would be ideal.
- * I don't think tops should require school badge, brown jumpers/cardigans I agree with and blue polo tops.
- * I am in favour of strict school uniform including coats, bags and shoes. The children look smart in full uniform and it avoids any issues about not wearing what's in fashion particularly with girls.
- * I think present school uniform is very smart.
- * Seems to be a little of re-inventing the wheel as the uniform is absolutely fine.
- * Prefer revised design but need to consider the colour of the garment that they are to on blue or brown? Blue works well on brown looks good egg blazer. Brown on blue e.g. polo shirt would also work well.
- * School uniform can be an expensive undertaking and I would strenuously object to revisions in badges etc. that have already been bought with a view to them lasting many years!! A simple brown cardigan should suffice rather that branding everything the child wears.
- * This would be very smart.
- * The revised design is nice. However, that slight difference doesn't justify the need for change especially as there will probably be an additional cost?? More thread being used to produce.
- * Uniform is of paramount importance to me, agree strongly with uniform and proposed changes.
- * Blazers are too warm in good weather but offer no protection from inclement weather leaving children having to wear another jacket over the top being bulky and uncomfortable. And then the blazer cannot be seen anyway!
- * The outdoor jacket should be available as an option but NOT compulsory. Making it compulsory would leave parents having to purchase 2 winter jackets for their child(ren). As school jackets could not be reasonably be expected to be worn out with school but "ordinary" jackets could be used in all circumstances thereby minimising expense for parents.



- * The option should be available to let children wear polo's any day. Some find it more comfortable, leaving them able to concentrate in class and learn. Not all children like a collar and tie.
- * Polo's are too expensive an item to insist on for PE only. Children's own t-shirts and shorts should be sufficient though I would agree with not allowing football colours which I believe is the current practise.
- * The uniform at present offers children and parents options for comport and having regard to finances. Changing the school badge offers nothing positive neither revised design adds anything to it. The badge has been perfectly acceptable and has been recognised as for nearly 40years and does not need changed.
- * If it was compulsory to have a school bag and jacket with badge would staff be prepared to cope with confusion of numerous identical items?
- * I am concerned that I was not given this questionnaire on parents' night and had to ask for it at the school office, after finding out about it. I have since found out that other parents did not receive this. Something this important should have gone out to every family via the child. I trust the feedback will be reported back to parents with statistics as to quantity of response etc. so far as possible.



Parent Consultation Questionnaire (3) - Analysis

This questionnaire induced the highest number of comments. Notably of a negative retort but some positive

The current uniform offers some variety, which there is no consensus to amend. . However, the Parent Council have reviewed all feedback and proposed some compromises and guidelines on your behalf which have been communicated by the school within the Term 3 Newsletter.

The Parent Council does not advocate for any specific supplier of the uniform. As parents we shop at all the aforementioned shops and would encourage communication within the Parent Forum with regards quality, cost and availability.



Conclusion

The questionnaires indicate everyone is very pleased with the schooling our kids receive. This is in no small part to the dedication of all the staff within the school. We would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Parent Forum to express our thanks. We have a flourishing school community which continues to grow from strength to strength. We thank our kids and their parents for their continued involvement in the life of the school for this.

Parents should be confident any concerns they have will be addressed by the senior managers of the school. We trust all parents will make use of the open door policy offered by Mrs Penman to improve communication with the school. From discussions is it clear the school and Mrs Penman in particular is keen to work with our parents and listen to any and all concerns they may have.

The feedback received from the consultation on the school uniform allowed a valuable discussion around the guidelines for the school uniform. Ensuring a high standard of presentation while taking into account the views of the parents. The Parent Council are thankful to Mrs Penman for encouraging the issue of the questionnaire and acting on the feedback received.

Please come along and participate in the Parent Council meetings. All minutes are published on the school website along with the Activity Tracker. All recommendations / improvement actions proposed will be followed up and tracked on the Activity Tracker where necessary.

The Parent Council would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the questionnaires and provide their feedback. While it can be a time-consuming exercise to pull together everyone's thoughts and opinions, it has proven once again to be a very worthwhile exercise.

Parent Council February 2013