

# Marykirk Primary Partnership (MPP) Meeting Minutes

## Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Sep 2020, 7pm (virtual)

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**Participants:** Isla Mann (Headteacher), Charlotte McWhinnie (Deputy Headteacher), Katrina Suèr (Chair), Morag Williamson (Treasurer), Emma Kellas (Vice Chair), Greg Stewart, Lesley McNamee, David Hill, Fiona Cooper, Áine Stewart (Co-Secretary), William Brown and Jessica Bassi (Co-Secretary).

**Apologies:** Jane Tulloch (Deputy Headteacher), Paul Diack, Heather Herd and Alana Ferries.

### **Headteachers Update:**

- **Staffing:** There has been an effort to upscale staff. Two members of staff are absent. Staffing challenges are there but the school has managed to secure additional support which has been helpful, and the current staff is doing a good job. More funding coming in for additional support which equates to 1.2 teacher per cluster which will be used for the younger classes. There will be some specialist input for drama but limited in other areas due to COVID restrictions across the cluster. The hope is that there will be art available in the next term.
- **Consistency in learning:** This term is all about settling back into routines and continuity. The students were assessed to ascertain where they were in their learning and parents were informed during the parents evening. An improvement plan has been put in place after gaining feedback from staff, students and parents and used to drive the school forward. A part of this plan is a recovery plan that has been put in place and is a focus in schools across Scotland to get new routines established and children settled back into school. During the assessments it was highlighted that writing needs improvement and efforts need to be made to get children back on track.
- **Priorities for this term include**

- **Getting back to basics with teachers:** This includes what are the teachers planning in the classrooms and why. What is being used to backup these plans and how this is going to be delivered.
- **Implementing ICT properly:** Seesaw has limitations and Teams will be used in future which will require some investment.
- **Looking to build up resources:** Need to build up number of books and other resources for literacy and numeracy to cater to all students.
- **Respect for school property:** Building on respect for school property even after hours and the importance of recycle and reuse.

Points raised from questions asked by the committee and set agenda:

- **Pupil groups:** These will be reintroduced at the beginning of the second term.
- **Water fountains:** These are not in use due to COVID and the use has been discouraged as the fountains cannot be cleaned between uses but of course the water is there if any student requires it. It will be reinforced to children they have access to water, if required.
- **Dogs in the playgrounds:** Not having dogs in the playground is a request and cannot be enforced. This is due to the dirt caused and the fact that some children are afraid of dogs.
- **Leaver hoodies:** These will be given in January when the transition activities start typically.
- **Extra-curricular activities:** Just waiting on government guidance on what and when the school can start. The Developing Youth Workforce (DYW) activities have already started. Football is the only other activity which may start in term 2.
- **Noise within the classrooms:** This has settled down now as compared to beginning of term when pupils were excited to be back in school. P1 and P2 have taken a while to settle in but are much better than other schools in the cluster.

- **Disruptive behaviors in the senior classes:** Although there is negative behavior, P5 to P7 are getting structured learning and positive behavior reinforcement to encourage good behavior and build on that. Practical examples include marbles in the jar, best table etc.
- **Additional support in the kitchen:** Getting additional support has been unsuccessful with the council but there are no issues at the moment.
- **Social distancing:** This was observed as not being adhered to and a reminder will be sent by the school to maintain 2m distance at the entrance to the school.
- **Fundraising:** The council has said that there should be no fundraising at this time.
- **Next Meeting:** Virtually, 4pm Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020.

Minutes prepared by Jessica Bassi