
AGENDA & MINUTES

Mercy College Parents Association

24.1.2022

Welcome & Apologies:

Items for Discussion:

- a) Format of meetings
- b) Mechanisms for Communicating with wider parent population
- c) Capturing Stakeholders (Parents, teachers, Board of Management etc) expectations/perceptions of PTA
- d) Resources/ supports required to support school community/parents in the short and medium term
- e) Social event

Report from Principal or nominee

AoB : Revised Anti Bullying Policy

PTA: WhatsApp group (083 176 9676)

Synopsis of discussion of Parents Association meeting

Format of meetings:

As per custom and practice to date, the Principal and Vice Principal will be in attendance to address any queries. The Principal will provide parents with a summary of the main activities of the school including issues arising of note at the Board of Management and Student Council. The summary notes of the PTA will be available to the Board of Management and Student Council.

Mechanisms for communicating with wider parent population:

Notes of meetings, upcoming events will be available on the School website at [Parents Association – Mercy College \(mercycollegesligo.ie\)](http://Parents Association – Mercy College (mercycollegesligo.ie)) Parents to be made aware of this resource. Parents requested to deploy Whatapp for communicating with each other. Parents can message the Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer privately re any issue they wish raised for further discussion.

The deployment of Social Media as a means of communicating (e.g Facebook) was discussed but a decision was made to evaluate the effectiveness of the website before introducing a further medium for communicating at this juncture.

Capturing Stakeholders (Parents, teachers, Board of Management etc) expectations/perceptions of PTA

The need to ascertain what parents/ teachers/ students consider as the role of the PTA was discussed. It was decided to ascertain what was already in situ (potential terms of reference / guidelines etc.) prior to undertaking such an activity locally, it

Outcome:

The National Parents Council Post Primary (NPCPP) is the umbrella group for Parents' Associations in the post-primary sector of the Irish education system. It has a vision and mission detailed in the following link [ParentsAssociationsBooklet2016-2017.pdf \(bpps.ie\)](http://ParentsAssociationsBooklet2016-2017.pdf (bpps.ie))

Page 9 sets out rationale for a Parents Association is and the objectives of a PA.

Why Parents' Association?

A Parents' Association is defined as a group of parents working in partnership with all stakeholders to enhance the educational development and educational opportunities of their children. Parents' Associations/Councils deal with issues in a structured way.

- A Parents' Council is a resource at the disposal of the school community.
- A Parents' Council is a resource at the disposal of the individual parent.
- A Parents' Council represents the views of parents, e.g. by having an input into school policies.

Membership of the Parents' Association: All parents and guardians of children attending your school are members of the Parent Association.

Chairperson: M Glacken, Secretary J Elwood, Treasurer S Foley

Objectives of a Parents' Association

- To act as a conduit between the parents and the school.
- To inform parents of their role (rights and responsibilities) with regard to the school.
- To inform parents about their school: policies, curriculum, system of governance (Board of Management, etc.).
- To encourage dialogue with the Board of Management and other partners relating to parents' expectations for their students.
- To ensure that parents are represented at all levels in the consultative process of school development planning and decision-making.
- To help parents acquire the necessary skills which their role demands.

The website of the National body currently not available but a Twitter account is active.

[National Parents Council Post Primary \(@NPCpp\) / Twitter](#)

Resources/ supports required to support school community/parents in the short and medium term

Various ideas for supporting students were put forward:

Study Skills, Building Resilience, Self-defence classes, dancing etc.

Actions: JE to email AG details for Sean Lally who delivers study skill classes

AG to explore personnel for resilience training

MG to liaise with Sligo Sports Partnership to ascertain what supports they can provide to support students keeping active.

Other issues discussed – the need to source personnel to support hockey coaching.

Action: Volunteers from parent community to be sought to support hockey coaching.

Action: The students perceptions of what they feel is needed to support them be sought (possibly via the Student Council)

Other issues discussed

- Update provided on school extension and an weather hockey pitch. Separate funding is required to build the all-weather pitch.
- School preparation for PE as leaving cert subject. School capacity and students' level of interest to be considered prior to a decision being made to offer PE as a LC subject.

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- Updated Anti Bullying Policy

Action: Parents who wish to review and comment on the draft Anti Bullying Policy to contact school directly.

Social event for Parents:

The possibility of a social event for parents was raised and requires further discussion at next meeting.

Next meeting:

Date & time: 21.3.2022 @ 20.00hrs

Venue: Mercy College