



DRAFT

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 – 2023

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1. Parent Council Members and Post Holders 2022-23

Officers:

Chair:	Sarah Scott
Secretary:	Kirstin Leighton
Treasurer:	Ros Ingle
Communications:	Hilary Snaith/Laura Bird
Events/Hospitality:	Aileen Nimmo

Parent Council Members:

Tiziana Basciani
Nicolas Boyes (part of year)
Rob Dunbar
Orla Hobson
Christiane Kerlen
Padraic Kinsella
Ailsa Macintosh
Caroline McKellar
Bec Phipps
Kate Pinault
Vikki Plant
Joanne Sapienza Chapman
Steffi Schultze
Lisa Sutherland

Penny Tarsia
María Angélica Thumala Olave
Charles Warlow

2. Chair's Introduction

As Chair I would like to express my gratitude to all the Parent Council (PC) members and post holders for their support this year.

In addition to holders of specific posts, there were also seventeen members of the PC Council who have contributed to its running over the year. Thank you also to those in the wider parent forum who support the PC's work in a variety of ways.

We would also like to particularly thank Ros Ingle for her work as JGHS PC Treasurer over the last four years as she stands down from that post.

PC member Nicolas Boyes stood down from the JGHS Trust this year and we would like to express our appreciation for his work with the Trust, and also for that of Vikki Plant, who remains a Trust member. We would also like to thank PC members, Orla Hobson and Padraic Kinsella, for their work representing the PC on the Council's newly set up Gaelic Learning Board and Laura Bird for representing the PC on the Council's ASN in Mainstream Group.

As parent representatives, the PC would like to express our gratitude to the staff at JGHS who continue to help so much with the work of the Parent Council. This includes the admin team, teaching and support staff, the senior leadership team, and the Headteacher, Neil McCallum. One of the major events in the school year was Neil's appointment as the permanent Head at the end of 2022, and we welcome his support in all that we do.

We would also like to convey our appreciation to the parents and pupils who throughout the year have brought their comments, questions and ideas to the Parent Council and helped to keep its work focussed on the concerns of the school community.

3. Parent Council Meetings

For the first time since before the pandemic, PC meetings started to be held in person in 2023-23, with the first meeting in the school being the October 2022 AGM. To retain the benefits of the online model, which include increased levels of engagement and the ability for meetings to be recorded and posted online, whilst also enjoying the greater possibilities of discussion and debate at in person meeting, it was agreed to use an arrangement of alternating in person and

online meetings in 2022-23. We have also introduced live captions in a variety of languages for online meetings, hoping that this will also assist in making them more accessible to all parents.

PC agenda areas of discussion/action in 2022-23 have included:

- Capacity and Rising Rolls
- Active Schools and extra-curricular activities
- Education reform
- Pupil Support and Wellbeing
- Anti-racism
- Toilets
- Strikes
- HT recruitment

Six meetings were held altogether (including the AGM), with all meetings attended by Neil McCallum as Headteacher and other members of senior staff contributing their expertise on specific topics. The presentations and speakers at Parent Council meetings were:

November 2022: Neil McCallum (HT) on SQA results.

February 2023: Ian Porter (DHT), Christopher Cham and Craig Watt (Anti-racism group), Grace Dempsey (Intercultural Youth Scotland) and Zaki El-Salahi (A+ Group) on anti-racism approaches in the school and the A+ project.

March 2023: Iain Coltart (CL Sciences) on the science curriculum.

May 2023: Tania Peters (Senior Development Officer) and João Reis (PSO Attendance) on PEF (Pupil Equity Fund), attendance and supporting pupils in attaining qualifications.

September 2023: Nigel Cotter (DHT) on SQA Results, Tracking Attainment and Reporting.

In addition, Eliot Ambrose (Active Schools Coordinator), attended the meeting in February to give an update on Active Schools extra-curricular activities.

Headteacher updates

Headteacher updates are an informative, integral part of the PC meetings and essential for sharing information with parents and for giving parents an opportunity to raise questions. Parents appreciate these updates and the Headteacher's Friday email update.

4. Parent Council Engagement

The PC has continued to represent parents' views, particularly at Locality meetings with Council Officers and at the Consultative Committee with Parents (CCwP) with Councillors from the Education, Children and Families Committee.

JGHS PC has worked with other PCs across Edinburgh on issues such as:

- The resumption of Active Schools activities
- Vaping in school
- Resumption of school excursions abroad

JGHS PC also responded to the City of Edinburgh Council budget consultation.

5. Financial Summary

The annual financial statement is available as a separate document.

We would like to express our thanks to Ros Ingle for her work as Treasurer and for organising and managing the Small Sums Fund and to Dougie Stirling for carrying out the auditing of the accounts again this year.

6. Fundraising/Events

This year the resumption of school events as community occasions has meant that it has been possible for the PC to resume our traditional role of providing refreshments for these events. This has included the Christmas concert, the opening of the Darroch Building, Battle of the Bands, the Mental Health evening, Spring Fling, P7 parents' information evening, and the end-of-year Celebration of Sport. The PC would like to thank Aileen Nimmo for co-ordinating hospitality and also extend thanks to all the volunteer parents who assisted at these events. Your time and efforts are much appreciated. We would also like to thank the senior pupils who have been such a valuable support, and all staff who have assisted with the logistics of providing refreshments in different ways.

Fundraising has also continued to be carried out via Parent Pay and Easyfundraising and this also forms a significant part of our fundraising efforts. A full report is provided in the financial statement.

7. Communications



Information on PC activities and meetings has continued to be shared via emails direct to parents through the school, and via the Headteacher's Friday email update. We are extremely grateful to the school's admin team for all their support with this.

The Parent Council website is used for updates on PC activities and posts relating to the school community. It is regularly updated and is the place where recordings of PC meetings and presentations can be found. The PC also maintains its own mailing list and issues regular newsletters on Parent Council activities. Our thanks to Hilary Snaith for her work in maintaining and providing content for the website and the PC mailing list and newsletter.

Parents can subscribe/unsubscribe for the PC mailing list via our website or on emails via our website <https://jghsparentcouncil.org/>

8. Contact Information

Email: jghscouncilcomms@gmail.com

Website: <https://jghsparentcouncil.org/>