

Appendix 5

St Joseph's Primary School Focus Groups

Both focus groups were undertaken by Tina Sartain on 24th April 2023 with Head Teacher, Michelle Collins, observing.

1. Pupil Focus Group – 5 x P6 pupils

Q1. Do you know about a consultation to change the boundary of your school catchment area that is being carried out by the council at the moment?

A. All pupils answered yes, they had learned about it in school.

Q2. What do you think about the fact that the catchment currently means that some pupils who may want to attend the school have to ask for this through a placing request?

A. Pupil 1: think it's not fair because people living in Luss might want to come to this school and they can't get catholic education if they want it.

Pupil 3: I think the catchment should be extended so that everyone can choose to come here

Pupil 4: It's not fair the way it is just now because if you live in Luss, or if you went to St Joseph's and the you moved to Luss, then you wouldn't be able to get the bus to come here and you would end up having to move schools and leave your friends. If your parents couldn't afford to pay for transport you would have to move to Luss Primary School and leave your friends but if you lived in another place you would be able to get the bus to school for free.

Pupil 2 and Pupil 5 were also in agreement that the catchment as it currently stands is unfair for people living in the Luss area who might want to attend St Josephs.

2. Parent/Staff Focus Group – Parent council chair and 2 parent council members, who are also staff.

Parent council chair was aware of current boundary status. He felt that if people were to find out that the choice of denominational education was being denied to some parents within a geographical area this could be politically contentious. The right of parents to access denominational education should be available to all within the catchment and the current situation should be remedied as soon as possible.

The other parents/staff members were unaware of the current boundary situation but were then in agreement with the chair that it requires to be changed and brought in line with the right of parents to choose Hermitage Academy or Our Lady and St Patricks.