



Parental Involvement

Our school recognises the role of parents as the prime educators of their children. We acknowledge that the home life of the child is the most potent factor in his/her development. We recognise that good home/school liaison is essential in order that:

- The potential of each child is fulfilled.
- The school may operate efficiently.

Aim

We endeavour to cultivate a good and harmonious relationship between parents and the school.

Procedures

Parents are made to feel welcome in the school and they are encouraged to play an active role in the child's school life. It is widely recognised that children benefit from an effective partnership between parents and teachers. Therefore, we encourage close co-operation and collaboration between the home and the school.

Before child commences in school

Before the child begins his/her school life, we have an open afternoon when parents bring their child to the school to see the classroom, meet the teacher and become familiar with the new surroundings in which the child will find him/herself. The parents are given an information booklet at this meeting and any questions are answered. It is emphasised to parents that they are welcome in the school and advised to discuss any problems with the teacher at an early stage.

Infants Classes

The Junior and Senior infant pupils go home at 2 o'clock and they are accompanied to the gate by their class teacher. This enables parents and teacher to engage in brief conversations, thus ensuring that children witness a cordial relationship between their parents and the teacher. If there are any problems it is possible to discuss them at this stage or make an appointment for a longer discussion.

Throughout the school

As the children progress through the school, the emphasis on co-operation continues. Parents are welcome to come into the school to collect children for appointments etc. They are actively encouraged to come to the school and discuss with the class teacher and/or the Principal any worry they may have concerning their child's progress in school. If they need to discuss any issues other than queries about homework with the class teacher they are asked to make an appointment and to state the reason for the meeting. This allows the teacher to collect any necessary information before meeting with the parents. If the parent needs to call during class time it enables the teacher to arrange work for the class and supervision. However as all teachers are on the premises before class, meetings normally take place at this time, thus ensuring less disruption to class time.



We believe those regular consultations with parents helps teachers to come to a deeper appreciation of the child's needs and so to plan for more effective learning experiences.

Parent Teacher meetings

A parent teacher meeting is held in the 2nd term of every year to enable parents to meet with teachers on an individual basis.

To minimise the waiting time for parents a specific time is allocated to each parent. If the time allocated is not convenient every effort will be made to give an alternative time on the day of the parent teacher meeting. If this is not possible an appointment can be made to meet with the teacher on another day at a mutually convenient time. Parents of children who attend Learning Support will meet with the Learning Support teacher on the day of the parent teacher meetings. Written school reports are sent out once a year, in June, to all classes.

School Events

Parents are kept informed of school events and activities by means of notes and newsletters. A letter is sent to parents at the beginning and end of each term and if necessary at other times to keep parents aware of upcoming events. A newsletter is sent to parents at Halloween, Christmas, Midterm, Easter and Summer. The purpose of these newsletters is to ensure that parents are kept aware of the school happenings and to promote good relationships between home and school. A school calendar is sent to parents in September giving details of holidays and inservice days for the coming year.

When letters, newsletters or notes are being sent home they are given to the youngest child in the family as parents have indicated that their younger children are more likely to remember to hand up the notes.

Parents Association

There is an active Parents Association in the school and their involvement is greatly appreciated. The Principal is willing to attend meetings as requested.

Visits by Parents

There is an awareness among staff that Parents/Grandparents often have skills and time to offer to the school and they are invited to come in and talk to classes when the occasion arises. These visits would be carefully planned and organised to ensure the greatest benefit is achieved.

Conclusion

As a school community our aim is to work together in co-operation and harmony for the full development of every child in our school.