



Policy on Parental Involvement

This policy was drafted as a collaborative exercise between Board of Management, staff and parents, in line with the Education Act, 1998; Education Welfare Act, 2000 and School Self Evaluation 2012

1. Introduction

- Our school is a community where pupils, parents and teachers collaborate and work in partnership for our children. When parents decide to send their child to our school they are entering a very important relationship. "Partnership is a working relationship that is characterised by a shared sense of purpose, mutual respect and a willingness to negotiate." Gillian Pugh, Working Towards Partnership in the Early Years.
- In keeping with the principles of our school the involvement of all parents is sought and encouraged.
- A high level of parental involvement is a feature of our school and requires a commitment from parents.
- Parents as a group have a range of talents, abilities and skills that have the potential to enrich and extend the educational opportunities provided for the children. It is our policy to identify parents with specific skills and to invite those parents to share their skills with us at a school and a class level.
- Respect for the professional role of the teacher and the statutory responsibilities of the Principal, Patron and the Board of Management is always an important consideration.
- Parents are invited to become involved in the school in many ways and at many levels, for example:
 - Serving on school bodies (Board of Management, Parent's Association)
 - Volunteering their time in the classroom
 - Accompanying classes on school trips
 - Helping out at school events
 - Policy making
 - Homework
 - Fundraising
 - The opportunities are endless

2. Benefits of Parental Involvement

- Children benefit from greater diversity in the classroom.
- Children profit from more one-to-one attention.
- Parental skills may support and complement work already taking place.
- Parental involvement actively supports and encourages the child's learning.
- A wide range of activity is facilitated. This can be interesting and fun, and can lead to a broader and more holistic education

- It promotes 'good parent/teacher relationships and a better level of understanding between home and school' (National Parents' Council).
- It enhances communication, trust and respect between parents and teachers.
- Parents can learn about the curriculum.
- Parental involvement allows children to see that school is an extension of home and therefore fosters the idea of the 'school family.'
- Parental skills can contribute to the smooth running and development of the school.
- Parental Involvement provides the opportunity of making lifelong friends.

3. How to Get Involved

- The School and PA are developing a data base of skills and talents within the parent body for school/classroom support.
- Sometimes parental involvement is once off; parents may offer to visit the classroom to provide a talk on an aspect of the curriculum that relates to their work or life.
- Parents can consult with the class teacher about hobbies, skills or interests they can share with the class bearing in mind that needs change from year to year.
- Parents can work in conjunction with the teachers in a planned and co-ordinated way. For example, they could help with library and shared reading book exchange, in the school garden and lend a welcome hand in many other areas which can be identified with the teacher.
- Ongoing projects over a number of weeks may enhance and enrich the work the children are involved with in the classroom: for example Maths for Fun
- Parents may be able to take time to accompany the class on a tour or assist with a once off activity.
- Opportunities are endless.

Guidelines for Getting Involved

- Parents come into the classroom at the invitation of the teacher by prior arrangement and for an agreed purpose. Before volunteering their time parent (or any other volunteer) must read the Parental Involvement Policy and the Child Protection Policy. Following this they must sign the Voluntary Disclosure Form.
- The happiness, welfare and safety of our children are our primary concern. A child's personal history and academic achievements are strictly confidential. School volunteers should never discuss the children.
- Respect for the teachers in their professional capacity is essential.
- Discipline remains the responsibility of the teacher.
- All work will be supervised by the teacher.
- Volunteer helpers should be conscious of and sensitive to the needs of the entire class, not just the needs of their own child.
- In the interests of safety toddlers and younger children cannot be accommodated during a classroom activity.
- The highest standard of behaviour and language is expected.
- Punctuality and consistency are crucial
- No fees are payable. Any expenses that you wish to reclaim must be sanctioned in advance by the teacher, and must be accompanied by receipts.
- In the case of an ongoing project that takes place over a number of weeks, parents will meet with the teacher to discuss the activity. It remains the responsibility of the teacher to determine its appropriateness (e.g. is it suitable for the age group, has something similar already been done etc.). The teacher has the final say in the event that he/she feels it is falling short of its original aims and objectives.
- The school ethos must be upheld at all times. Consequently, respect for all the partners in education - children, teachers and parents - must be upheld at all times.
- Mobile phones must be switched off or on silent during pupil contact time.

- Parents will be asked to sign an agreement / to abide by the school policy on Parental Involvement in the School/ Voluntary Disclosure Form (see appendix).

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on Monday 17th June 2013, and reviewed in 2021.

Signed _____Chairperson Board of Management

This policy will be reviewed in 2025 or earlier if deemed necessary.

[Insert School Name] National School Parental Involvement Agreement Form

I have read the policy document on Parental Involvement in the School and agree to abide by the guidelines.

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____