

Introduction

A high level of parental involvement is a feature of our school.

We appreciate the involvement and support of parents.

Parents are invited to become involved in the school in many ways:

- **Serving on school bodies – Board of Management or Parents’ Association**
- **Policy making**
- **Organising fundraising and social events**
- **Catering at school events**
- **Supervision on school trips**
- **Sharing skills and talents eg. arts and crafts or a talk / workshop on a particular area of expertise. Parents are invited to let the teachers know of skills they can share with the children**
- **Attending assemblies, concerts, church services, sports, etc.**
- **Attending educational meetings organised through the school**
- **Attending parent / teacher meetings (formal parent / teacher once a year and other meetings at the request of either parents or teachers)**

Benefits of Parental Involvement

- **Children benefit from greater diversity in the classroom**
- **Parental Involvement 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**
- **It enhances communication, trust and respect between parents and teacher**
- **Parents can learn about the curriculum**
- **Parental involvement allows children to benefit from positive links between home and school**
- **Parental skills can contribute to the smooth running and development of the school**

Guidelines for getting involved

- Parents can work in conjunction with the teachers in a planned and co-ordinated way
- Parents can help with swimming, tours and trips
- Parents may get involved in many extra-curricular activities such as chess, yoga, music, art and football
- Parents are welcome to discuss any ideas they may have with the teacher
- Parents come into the classroom at the invitation of the teacher by prior arrangement and for an agreed purpose. The classroom teacher, in consultation with the Principal, holds the final decision on the suitability and viability of all suggestions.
- 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
- The School Ethos must be upheld at all times. Consequently, respect for all the partners in education – children, teachers and parents – must be upheld

Meetings with Teachers

Formal – In line with the terms of Circular 14/04 (DES) formal parent / teacher meetings are held once a year.

Informal – We aim to foster an atmosphere of mutual respect, courtesy and approachability. Parents are asked to keep in mind that teachers need the time before class (8.20am – 8.40am) to prepare for the day ahead. Therefore, to avoid disruption to teaching and learning, meetings should be by appointment and parents are also asked to indicate the reason for the requested meeting. Likewise if a teacher requests a meeting with a parent we will give the reason in advance of the meeting.

Appointments can be made by phoning the office between 10am and 1pm Monday to Thursday or by contacting the class teacher.

Security

In the interests of security and safety all parents are requested to ring the doorbell and to let either Sandra or Mrs. McCoy know that they are on the premises.