

## **Home-School Links**

### **General**

The following measures endeavour to develop and ensure dynamic and supportive links between school and home.

- (a) Regular newsletters
- (b) Homework notebook and notes to parents
- (c) Parent-Teacher Meetings
- (d) End-of-year reports
- (e) Appointment procedure for meeting parents where necessary
- (f) Phone calls where necessary
- (g) Religious ceremonies
- (h) Meetings involving parents
- (i) School concerts, socials, prizegivings etc.
- (j) Sports day
- (k) Parents' Association activities

### **Policy**

It is recognised that good home-school links contribute greatly to the quality of education children receive. To establish these links, an open, cordial relationship exists between parents and teachers that recognises and values each's respective roles.

### **Aims**

1. To facilitate a communicative relationship between teachers and parents to the benefit of our pupils.
2. To establish procedures for the sharing of information about pupils' progress.
3. To create a school environment where parents and guardians feel welcome and free to discuss their child's progress with the teachers.
4. To encourage all parents to become involved with the Parents' Association.

### **Communications**

#### **Parent-Teacher Meetings**

- Annual Parent-Teacher meetings are held each year towards the end of November in accordance with Circular 14/04.
- Parents/guardians are given a 10 minute appointment for each child a week in advance.

- A school family register which is updated each year allows for the efficient allocation of times to families with more than one child in the school.
- Usually the meetings are held on one evening and run until 8pm so school closes early to allow staff to have a short break.
- Parent-Teacher meeting report sheets are available to teachers who choose to use them as a method of conducting the meetings.
- Prior to the meetings, a handout is circulated to teachers outlining
  - (a) the aims of the meetings
  - (b) suggestions on how to conduct the meetings
  - (c) suggestions with regard to preparing for the meetings.
 Where necessary, teachers are available to meet parents by appointment during the school year.

Where parents are unable to attend at this time, they are encouraged to make an alternative appointment with the teacher at a mutually suitable time.

The school also encourages periodical informal meetings between teachers and parents which may be initiated by either party as they see fit.

Parents will be encouraged to be familiar with the work being done by their child in school and to be aware of what homework is being done. A formal school report will be issued at the end of each school year.

Information on school activities will be communicated to parents through periodic letters and bulletins during the year.

In accordance with the Educational Welfare Act (2000), explanatory notes on pupil absences must be sent to the class teacher after each absence.

At the teacher's discretion, and subject to the principal's approval, parents may be invited to use their expertise in a particular area to assist the teacher in some classroom-based or extra-curricular activities,

### **Parents' Association**

The school recognises the benefits of an active parents' association. The association may communicate with the school through meetings between the chairperson/secretary and the principal, particularly after a Parents' Association general or committee meetings.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

It is important that all partners in the school community be aware of the parameters of their own and others' respective roles and responsibilities. The school ethos must be upheld at all times. The ethos is defined by the patron. The school is Catholic, child-centred, non-discriminatory and

democratic. Consequently, respect for the partners – children, parents, staff and management – must be shown at all times.