

# 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) Text a parent service
- (d) Parent-Teacher Meetings
- (e) End of year reports
- (f) Appointment procedure for meeting parents where necessary
- (g) Phone calls where necessary
- (h) Religious ceremonies
- (i) Meetings involving parents
- (j) School concerts, matches, award ceremonies, open days, school events etc.
- (k) Book Fair

## Policy

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

## 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 in relation to 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 facilitate all parents to become involved actively in the life of the school.

## Communications

Formal Parent-Teacher meetings will be held every year in November where each parent may have a private meeting with their child's teacher(s). The meetings will be held during the hours laid down by the DES. 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. Textaparent will be used also.

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' Support**

Parental support in the provision of resources, financial support and assistance in extra-curricular areas is welcome and appreciated.

Parents are always encouraged to be actively involved in the life of a school.

### **Parent's Association**

In November 2010, the Board made efforts to set up a Parent's Association by inviting a representative of National Parents Council to address a public meeting of the parents. It was decided to postpone the setting up of a Parent's Association as the parent body was happy with its input and involvement in the life of the school at present. This will be reviewed by Board of Management in the future or at any time if parents wish to set up a formal Association. The Board would be most supportive of such an initiative

### **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 a Catholic school, child-centred, non-discriminatory and democratic. Consequently, respect for the partners – children, parents, staff and management – must be shown at all times.