

SCOIL MHUIRE, CLONDRA PARENTS AS PARTNERS POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Scoil Mhuire, Clondra is committed to ensuring that every child receives a quality education. We want to work with parents/guardians to ensure that we support their child's learning in whatever way we can. We acknowledge the role of parents as partners in education. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in the life of the school. It is crucial to the success of our pupils that the school fosters parental interest and support. Communication between school and home should be open and positive. Scoil Mhuire, Clondra acknowledges that the parents are the primary educators of their children and we endeavour to create an open and welcoming atmosphere in our school at all times. This policy outlines strategies adopted by the school to promote positive home-school relations.

RELATIONSHIP TO SCHOOL'S MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of this school is to enable every child to develop spiritually, morally, intellectually, aesthetically and physically to his/her full potential in a friendly, safe, and comfortable environment. We endeavour to equip each child with the skills and positive self-esteem to empower them to contribute to their community and become lifelong learners. This work can best be done where there is a high level of openness and co-operation between staff, parents and pupils.

PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Parent-teacher meetings

Parents are welcome in our school and are encouraged to keep in regular contact with class teachers and Special Education teachers. We realise that early communication often prevents a later difficulty arising and is in the best interests of our pupils. Parents are encouraged to write a note in the Homework Journal, use the Aladdin Connect service or contact the school office to arrange an appointment with class teachers.

Parent-teacher meetings are held annually in accordance with Circular 14/04. Parents/Guardians have an opportunity to have an individual meeting with their child's class teacher and discuss their child's progress both academically and socially. Parent/guardians will be given advance notice of this date(s) in advance. These meetings are organised through our Aladdin School Management System and parents can book a slot at a time that suits them and synchronise meetings if they have more than one child in the school. The Special Education Teacher (SET) will also be available during Parent-teacher meetings. To meet the needs of parents who are unable to attend on the specific date(s) of the Parent-teacher meetings, teachers will arrange to meet them before or after school and during the weeks leading to the assigned dates for parent-teacher meetings. Parents of children receiving support have regular contact with class teachers and SET to review and implement student support plans.

Homework journals/homework bags

In the junior classes, teacher uses homework bags to organise children's homework. Homework journals are used from 1st-6th classes. Notes in bags or journals provide an effective means of daily communication between parent and teacher. Parents and teachers also liaise by telephone and informal written communication.

Class Dojo

Some classes use 'Class Dojo' as a means of communicating with parents. This is a digital classroom management tool designed to help teacher improve student behaviour and communicate more effectively with parents. Teachers can encourage students and share their best moments with parents. It is a very effective tool in strengthening the feedback loop between student, teacher and parents.

End-of-Year Report Cards

Parents/Guardians receive an End-of-Year Report Card in June every year. This Report Card outlines each pupil's progress for the year including their performance on Standardised Tests (1st-6th) as outlined in our Assessment Policy.

Text messaging and e-mail

The school has established a database of mobile phone numbers for parents on the Text-a-parent.ie website. This facilitates the sending of text messages to all parents or specific groups of parents (e.g., football teams, quiz teams, etc.). E-mail is also used as a method of communication. We have recently adopted Aladdin Connect which will become our main method of communicating with parents going forward.

Website

The school website contains school history, policies, reports achievements and provides information on upcoming activities.

Booklets/School literature

Our Introductory Booklet, which is given to parents with the Enrolment Form, outlines our General School Policy, Activities, Code of Behaviour, Anti Bullying Policy, Complaints Procedure, Acceptable Internet Use Policy and Child Safeguarding Statement. We also have an information booklet for parents of Junior Infants children with helpful advice on preparing a child for junior infants. We have also produced a 'Helping your Child with Maths' Booklet which is a guide for parents to help their children with maths from junior infants to sixth class.

Other Regular Communications

The Principal sends a welcome letter to all parents/guardians at the beginning of the school year with information on upcoming events. A schedule of yearly events/closures is sent with the end-of-year reports. We will send newsletters to parents on a termly or occasional basis, to keep them informed on recent and upcoming events.

Induction meeting for new parents

An Induction Meeting is held in Spring each year for the parents/guardians of the Junior Infant class for the coming school year. This meeting is attended by the Principal, Representatives of the Parents' Association and a sometimes a speaker from Triple P (Positive Parenting). Parents receive the induction information at this meeting. School information and pertinent school policies are also discussed. This meeting provides a forum

to allay the fears and anxieties of new parents. It provides an opportunity to us to assure parents that their child's happiness and welfare is of vital importance to the teachers and staff of the school. We realise that children learn best when they feel happy and secure. Parents' questions are invited and answered at the Induction Meeting. The new pupils are encouraged to take part in activities organised in their new classroom, where they get a chance to meet their new classmates.

Parents' Association

We have an active and extremely supportive Parents' Association in our school. The Parents Association has proved to be an invaluable resource to our school since its inception in the 2012-13 school year. The Parents' Association organise many fundraising events and provide help with events organised by the school. The officers on the committee of the Parents' Association can meet the Principal to discuss pertinent issues at a time suitable for both parties. Copies of draft policies are given to officers of the Parents' Association for discussion/comment. An approved report is given to the Parents' Association after each Board of Management meeting. The Board of Management and the Parents Association meet annually at the end of the year for a social evening.

School events

The school hosts many events during the year to encourage the participation of parents/guardians in school life. Examples of these events include the annual Christmas concerts and raffles, raising of Green Flag, Easter and Hallow'een fun days, grandparents mass, Graduation ceremony, book fairs, sports days, etc. Parents are also encouraged to participate in the preparation of the children for the Communion and Confirmation.

Review

This policy was brought to the staff and Board of Management in November 2015. Reviewed in November 2020. Current review, April 2024. This document will be reviewed as necessary but at latest April 2027.

RATIFICATION

This policy was ratified on _____

Signed: _____

Ms Mary Duginan, Chairperson, Board of Management, Scoil Mhuire, Clondra, Co. Longford.