



**Letterkenny
Educate Together**
National School
ag fás le chéile - ag foghlaim le chéile

Parental Involvement Policy

Title

Parental Involvement in the Classroom Policy

Introductory Statement

This policy was drafted in December 2006 with input from parents and staff.

Rationale

In accordance with school ethos, Letterkenny Educate Together N.S. welcomes and seeks out the active and meaningful involvement of parents in the daily life of the school. A skilled and supportive parent body is a rich resource. Teaching and learning in our school can be enhanced by accessing this resource to assist in the delivery of the curriculum. The guidelines laid out in this policy seek to put in place a framework for parent-teacher partnership in the classroom which respects the roles, rights and responsibilities of all members of the school community - pupils, parents and teachers.

Relationship to characteristic spirit of the school

This policy will support the ethos of the school as follows:

Child Centered - Ensure we access the available human resources within our school community to aid in the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum to all pupils

Democratically Run - Facilitates the meaningful inclusion of parents/guardians in the work of the class while at the same time providing the class teacher with access to wide support network and range of additional skills to assist in the delivery of the curriculum

Co-educational - Male and female parents/guardians will be given equal access to involvement in the classroom and gender bias will be avoided when selecting parental skills to be accessed.

Equality-Based - Parents/guardians of pupils from different world faiths and none will be invited, as appropriate to support the delivery of this strand of the Learn Together curriculum.

Aims

The aims of this policy are:

- To benefit pupil learning
- To enhance teaching
- To provide meaningful role for parents/guardians in the daily life of the school

Guidelines (content of policy)

- 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.
- The happiness, welfare and safety of our children are our primary concern. A child's personal history and academic achievements are strictly confidential. Any doubts

about issues of confidentiality must be discussed with the Principal and/or class teacher.

- In accordance with child protection legislation, all adults in our school community must refrain from inappropriate physical contact with pupils (e.g. kissing, hugging, tickling, lifting etc.) Any concerns about issues of child protection should be addressed to the Principal and/or class teacher.
- Respect for the teachers in their professional capacity is essential.
- Discipline remains the responsibility of the class teacher.
- All work will be supervised by the teacher.
- Parents who participate should be sensitive to the needs of the entire class, not just the needs of their own child.
- In the interest of safety, toddlers and younger children cannot be accommodated during a class 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 Board of Management, 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 appropriate (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 the project is falling short of its original aims and objectives.
- The school ethos must be upheld at all times and it is important to keep in mind that the school is child-centred, co-educational, equality based and democratic. Consequently, respect for all members of the school community - pupils, parents and teachers - must be upheld at all times.
- Parents will be asked to sign an agreement to abide by this policy of Parental Involvement.

Success Criteria

- Parents feel informed of the need and administration of this policy.
- Pupil learning is enhanced by the extra support and skills available.
- Parents feel empowered by the active role which they are playing in their child's education and in the life of the school
- Parents develop over time a knowledge and understanding of the curriculum
- Teachers' delivery of the curriculum is enhanced by the extra support and skills which they can access.
- Teachers feel empowered by the meaningful partnership with parents which this involvement promotes

- The school is able to provide/contribute to the delivery of a wider range of activities

Roles and Responsibility

- Board of Management will oversee the implementation of this policy.
- Principal and teachers will facilitate the involvement of parents in the work of the classroom in accordance with the guidelines listed in the policy
- Parents will contribute to the work of the classroom in accordance with the guidelines listed in the policy.

Implementation Date

Following board ratification

Timetable for Review

- The board of management in consultation with parents and teachers will review the policy as required and at a minimum at the beginning of each Board of Management Term.

Ratification & Communication

- This policy was ratified by the Board of Management at the December meeting in 2007 and reviewed annually.

Parental Involvement in the Classroom Agreement Form

I have read the Parental Involvement in the Classroom Policy and I agree to abide by the guidelines listed.

Parent's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Teacher's
Name: _____

Teacher's Signature: _____

Date: _____