



Parental Involvement Policy Corpus Christi Primary School

Vision

Corpus Christi School embraces the principle of partnership, as the way forward in education. Our vision of parental involvement seeks to build partnership between home and school in a positive proactive manner. It recognises the parent as the primary educator of the child and seeks to develop partnership, in order to maximise active participation of all children in the learning process. This relationship will be based on a shared sense of purpose, mutual respect and a willingness to negotiate. The Home/School Community Liaison Scheme, which operates in our school, facilitates and supports the implementation of this vision.

Our vision will be characterised by

- A friendly and welcoming atmosphere towards parents.
- Increased interaction between parents and teachers.
- The encouragement of parental involvement in their children's lives in general and in their school life in particular.
- The promotion of parental involvement in the life of the school.
- Maintaining and strengthening key relationships with parents.

Aims

- To promote a holistic approach to the child's development.
- To promote a positive image of the school within the community.
- To develop and strengthen links with the local community.
- To create structures which promote 'Partnership in practice.'
- To ensure that our school plays an integral part in the community it serves.
- To promote positive engagement between home and school.
- To facilitate successful transfer from pre-school to primary school and from primary school to secondary school.
- To promote a whole school approach, to improving attendance, participation and retention.

Objectives

The above aims will be achieved by:

- Ensuring that effective communication links are in place between home and school and recognising that this is a two way process.
- Allowing the local community and agencies to use the school facilities, where possible and practical.
- Providing extra educational opportunities for parents and children.
- Improving numeracy and literacy, by supporting parents as the primary educators of their children.
- Strengthening the social and emotional literacy of the children, through different initiatives that support parents and teachers.

- Linking with the parents, the school and outside agencies to provide child friendly and therapeutic interventions for children.
- Linking with parents and agencies to provide counselling and mindfulness for parents.
- Running initiatives that encourage parents to work with their children, such as Family cookery, Family reading sessions, Baking and Book Club, Little Voices, Science Hub etc.
- Establishing groups that facilitate partnership discussion and practice.
- Drawing on the skills and expertise within the community, where possible.
- Ensuring an open, welcome and friendly atmosphere within the school.

The HSCL co-ordinator will

- Foster a whole school approach with regard to parental involvement and inclusion.
- Co-ordinate in school projects, such as Adult Ed classes, Halloween Disco, Santa Project, Family Reading, Maths for Fun, Family Coding, Family Baking, Family Gardening etc.
- Co-ordinate out of school family reading and learning projects with class teachers, parents and community staff, such as Teddy Bears Picnic, trips to the local library etc.
- Sit on the school's Care Team.
- Link with the assistant psychologist on a daily basis.
- Link with the Community Companions on a very regular basis.
- Link with the Family Support Worker on a daily basis.
- Link with the therapists and psychologists who work in the Corpus Christi Family Centre.
- Support parents through crisis.
- Co-ordinate local education committee projects.
- Co-ordinate Little Voices with parents.
- Work with outside agencies, to support families such as Barnardos, Sophia Housing, Suaimhneas etc.
- Promote health awareness initiatives with parents.
- Support parents with paperwork related to their child, such as NEPs questionnaires.
- Regularly engage in home visitation.
- Establish bonds of trust with the families.
- Promote the integrated delivery of services to families, such as Meitheal.
- Co-ordinate course and classes, which enable parents to strengthen their children's social, emotional and academic confidence and school readiness, such as Parent Transfer Programme, Sky is the limit programme, etc.
- Supporting the Parents association with fundraising and other activities.
(See Home School Liaison Co-ordinators Yearly Plan for further details).

All school staff engage in

- Parent/teacher meetings.
- Welcoming and encouraging parental involvement in curricular activities, such as Maths for Fun, Family Reading Sessions, Halloween, Christmas and Easter Celebrations etc.
- Involving parents in extra curricular activities as far as is practical, educational trips, sports, gardening, cooking etc.

- Regularly updating the school website and Facebook, to keep parents informed of school activities. Send photos to the Principal of the children participating in class and school activities.
- Celebrate children's achievements with parents, through rewards, notes home, praise and encouragement.
- Fully participate in attendance initiatives.
- Text a parent (once authorised by the Principal), to communicate with parents, send reminders etc.
- Engage in and support Wellness/Friendship week.

Evaluation

- Effectiveness of the policy.
- Achievement of targets.
- New developments based on needs analysis.