



RCN No:20113285

Dunderrow National School

Roll No: 169400

Dunderrow, Kinsale, Co.Cork, P17 K504. Tel: 021 4774041 e-mail: info@dunderrow.ie web: www.dunderrow.ie

Principal: Triona Hannon

Deputy Principal: Helen O' Callaghan

Parent/School Partnership

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT:

This policy was reviewed for the School Self Evaluation Process in 2018-2020 and again at the staff review 2021. It was reviewed by the Parent Association and ratified by the Board of Management.

Its purpose is to provide information and guidelines to parents and staff on parent/staff meetings and communication in Dunderrow NS. The family and home are central to the social and intellectual development of the child and the nurturing of good, moral values. The school and the family strive to be mutually supportive and respectful of each other, so that the child's education can be effective. All the stakeholders aim to work for the benefit of the child and their learning.

The school catholic ethos will be upheld at all times but it is important to keep in mind that the school is welcoming to all denominations , co-educational, child centered and democratic.

Consequently, respect for all the partners in education - children, teachers and parents - must be upheld at all times.

PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO:

- Develop close links with the school
- Participate in meetings in a positive and respectful manner, affirming the professional role of the staff and all staff members in the school
- Collaborate with the school in developing the full potential of their children
- Share the responsibility of seeing that the school remains true to its ethos, values and distinctive character
- Become actively involved in the school/parent association
- Participate in policy and decision-making processes affecting them
- Liaise with the Home School Community Liaison Coordinator

STAFF ARE ENCOURAGED TO:

- Establish good communication with parents/guardians of pupils in their class
- Keep parents/guardians informed of their child's progress and behaviour both positive and negative
- Listen to what parents/guardians have to say and encourage them to bring any concerns to you at an early stage to avoid situations escalating
- Be aware of the role of parents/guardians as prime educators and emphasise that all parties are working together for the child's benefit to help her reach her potential
- Value and respect the input of parents as they know their child best.

All of the following are adjusted periodically, in accordance with Co-vic Health Guidelines

STRUCTURES IN PLACE TO FACILITATE OPEN COMMUNICATION & CONSULTATION WITH PARENTS:

- A room is set up to facilitate parents for meetings, courses, fundraising activities, Open night in January for new parents etc
- Meeting for parents of new Junior Infants – early March
- Parent/teacher meetings in November
- Parents receive school report of each pupil 2 weeks before end of school year
- Meetings between parents of children with SEN and classroom/support teachers
- Consultation throughout the year
- Written communication, e-mail communication and school app messages
- Through the parents' association, parents are invited to discuss and contribute to the drafting and review of school policies. Decisions taken to change current policies and procedures or to introduce new ones will be made known to all parents in written format via the journal/school website/text/written note.
- Regular notifications through the school app and the school website keep parents up-to-date with school events, holidays and school concerns
- Homework diary 3rd – 6th class, used to relay messages which are signed between parents and teachers. Parents may be requested to sign the diary each night to certify that homework has been completed if and when it is deemed necessary.
- Use of Seesaw app for same during Covid restrictions
- Parents may be invited to share their expertise or to participate in particular class events or projects, with their child's class in a structured way
- Parents have been invited to events throughout the year e.g. school masses, school concerts etc dependant on Covid departmental guideline restrictions

All parents are also welcome to make an appointment any time throughout the year. Infant teachers will be available between 1.40pm and 2.40pm for this when necessary. If a parent wishes to consult with a teacher, she/he can contact the school secretary to arrange a suitable time.

It is vital that the school is immediately informed if family events/situations occur that cause anxiety to the child and therefore may adversely affect her education.

In all matters pertaining to the wellbeing and education of pupils, only the parents/legal guardians named on the enrolment form will be consulted by staff.

REPORTING TO PARENTS: *Circular 56/2011 Initial Steps in the implementation of the national literacy and numeracy Strategy* has been adopted by the Board of Management.

Parents have the primary responsibility for their children's learning and development. Schools can strengthen the capacity of parents to support their children in this way by sharing meaningful information about the progress that their children are achieving in the education system. This information needs to draw on the different sources of evidence that staff use, such as conversations with the learner, data-collection and documented progress on objectives and milestones reached in their short and long-term planning, examination of students own self-assessment data, documented observations of the learner's engagement with tasks, outcomes of other assessment tasks and tests, and examples of students' work. In turn, parents will often be able to enrich staff's knowledge of their students' progress through providing further information about the child's learning at home.

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS:

Formal Parent/Teacher meetings will be held once a year for all classes (Circular 14/04).

Where possible they will be held in the first term, towards the end of November. They will be initiated by the school staff and details regarding time, etc will be worked out by the class teacher and given to the parents. Parents will be given the opportunity to indicate preferred times. The school will attempt to co-ordinate times where siblings are concerned. The teachers use prepared guidelines for the meetings and collaborate in advance about the progress of individual children. The principal will try to ensure that all parents attend and will liaise with parents and staff to rearrange appointments where necessary.

THE PURPOSE OF THE PARENT/TEACHER MEETING IS:

- To establish and maintain good communication between the school and parents
- To let parents know how their children are progressing in school
- To help teachers/parents get to know the children better as individuals
- To help children realise that home and school are working together
- To meet demands for accountability
- To share all positives about the child
- To share with the parent the problems and difficulties the child may have in school
- To review with the parent the child's experience of schooling
- To learn more about the child from the parent's perspective
- To learn more about parental opinions on what the school is doing
- To identify areas of tension and disagreement
- To identify ways in which parents can help their children
- To negotiate jointly decisions about the child's education
- To inform the parents of standardised test results according to school policy

REPORT CARD TEMPLATES:

Schools should help parents to understand fully the evidence of learning that the school reports to them, especially information from any standardised tests. The NCCA has provided a range of standard report templates to assist schools in reporting information about the progress of primary pupils to parents, including information from standardised tests. The NCCA report card templates were developed through a process of consultation with schools and parents can take account of research commissioned by the NCCA.

THE REPORT CARDS PROVIDE FOR REPORTING IN FOUR KEY AREAS:

- The child's learning and achievement across the curriculum
- The child's learning dispositions
- The child's social and personal development
- Ways in which parents can support their child's learning

Dunderrow NS uses standard report card templates for reporting to parents on students' progress and achievement at school.

FORMAL MEETINGS:

Formal timetabled parent/teacher meetings take place in November. However, if a parent wishes to arrange a meeting at any stage during the year to discuss their child, they may do so by prior appointment.

- All communication sent from the school will be sent to the child's home address as given on the enrolment form, unless otherwise requested by parents
- In the case of separated parents, requests can be made by both parents to meet their child's teacher(s) individually for parent/teacher meetings

FORMAL MEETINGS-SSP'S & P.P.P's:

Formal timetabled parent/staff meetings on the subject of the School Support Plans will take place in September/October. However, if a parent wishes to arrange a meeting at any stage during the year to discuss their child, they may do so by prior appointment. Review meetings will take place where necessary early in each school term.

INFORMAL PARENT/STAFF MEETINGS:

- The School encourages communication between parents and staff
- Meetings with the class teacher/ SEN teacher are arranged by prior appointment and parents are asked to check in at reception upon entry.

Parents' Association:

As a parent /guardian you are an automatic member of our Parents Association. The school has an active P.A. It works in close co-operation with the school management and provides support and help for parents and the school.

- *All parents of school going children are invited to get involved.*
- *Committee members elected at annual AGM in term1 each school year.*
- *Parents association upholds an agreed constitution.*
- *Affiliated members of NPA-National Parents Council.*

P.A. aims :

- To help the school achieve its aims in any way it can – providing the best education possible for all children.
- To liaise with the Principal and the teaching staff.
- To represent the views of parents and to provide a forum for consultation with the Principal on relevant issues, policy making etc.,.
- To provide support for parents, especially new arrivals in the school.
- To provide practical help when required in the school.
- To facilitate social opportunities for parents at school-based meetings, annual functions and events.
- To help the school / BOM financially (Fundraising) when suitable opportunities arise.
- To inform parents on ongoing school activities by P.A newsletter.

Board of Management:

The B.O.M has responsibility for the effective running of the school with powers conferred on it by Dept of Education and Skills and in line with the guidance of the Catholic Primary Schools Management Association. The B.O.M is made up of eight people, 2 parents representatives, 2 community representatives, 2 members of teaching staff(one of whom is the principal)and 2 Patron's/Diocesan nominees.

Organizational policies and curriculum plans:

A consultative process will be followed in involving parents/guardians for a number of specific policies. A number of strategies are used e.g. questionnaires may be issued to all parents/guardians or to a representative sample, Feedback arising from focus group meetings, consultation with parent association, policy committees, representative/s at planning events. Day to day feedback is also valued. (the topic/area being addressed will inform the method of collaboration and consultation)

Ratified by the Board of Management on 3rd December 2018

Reviewed in Staff Policy Review, May 2021

Chairperson:



Seamus McCarthy

Date:

