

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT:

Our school is a community where pupils, parents and teachers collaborate and work in partnership for our children. When parents decide to send their children to Gaelscoil Bhun Cranncha they are entering a very important relationship.

Parents have a range of talents, abilities, and skills that have the potential to enrich and extend the educational opportunities provided for the children. Respect for the professional role of the teacher and the statutory responsibilities of the Principal, Patron An Foras Pátrúnachta, and the Board of Management is always an important consideration.

WE ENCOURAGE PARENTS TO:

become actively involved in the school in many ways and at many levels, by

- ✓ Serving on school bodies (Board of Management, Coiste na dTuismitheoirí)
- ✓ Participating in policy and decision-making processes affecting them e.g Homework, Code of Behaviour, Anti-Bullying, Irish Policy, and Child Protection.
- ✓ Fund-raising
- ✓ Assisting and attending school activities
- ✓ Contacting the school immediately if family events/situations occur that cause anxiety to the child and therefore may upset his/her education.
- ✓ Promoting the school and Gaeloideachais. Speak positively about the school and its staff members: if there is a concern, please address it directly with a staff member.

THE BENEFITS OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT:

- ✓ Children benefit from greater diversity in the classroom.
- ✓ Parental involvement actively supports and encourages the child's learning.
- ✓ It promotes good parent/teacher relationships and a better level of understanding between home and school.
- ✓ It enhances communication, trust and respect between parents and teachers.
- ✓ Parents can learn about the curriculum.
- ✓ Parental skills can contribute to the smooth running and development of the school.
- ✓ Parental involvement provides the opportunity of making lifelong friends.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

- ✓ Parents are, first of all, invited to consider their skills, interests and time and communicate this information upon enrolment or at any stage to the class teacher, or the Principal.

- ✓ Parents can work in conjunction with the teachers in a planned and
- ✓ co-ordinated way. For example they could help with shared reading, school choir, Irish dancing ,school garden and lend a welcome hand in many other areas which can be identified by the teacher.
- ✓ Parents can accompany school tours, make costumes for school concerts, Lá Fhéile Pádraig, preparations for First Holy Communion, Confirmation and end of year assembly.
- ✓ Opportunities are endless, baking, Book Week, Open Enrolment Evenings – the school welcomes all suggestions. Parents are invited to events throughout

INFORMAL PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION:

Communication between parents and teachers is valued and encouraged. The dialann scoile may be a satisfactory way of keeping in touch but if a face-to face meeting is necessary parents are asked to make an appointment (by phone call, by contacting the Secretary @ 074 93 61988, or by note in the dialann scoile). In our experience, there is no such thing as a “quick 5 minute meeting” which parents sometimes request first thing in the morning or at 3 o clock. Such meetings tend to be rushed and distracted with teachers perhaps supervising classes at the same time, or rushing home to family or child minders@3. Pre-arranged meetings allow for more discreet communication and avoid potential embarrassment for a child when his/her parent is talking to the teacher at the classroom door.

Sometimes a parent needs to speak to a staff member urgently. On occasion, these meetings need to take place without prior notice. The Principal will aim to facilitate such meetings making every effort to ensure that the children in the class do not lose out on any of the teaching/learning time.

APPS TO IMPROVE HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Some teachers, at their own discretion, may elect to choose from a range of apps which allow parents to play a more active role in the classroom. These apps such as Class Dojo and Class Messenger, strengthen the interface between home and school life by connecting teachers, parents and students quickly and easily. The app captures and generates data on behaviour and progress that teachers can share with parents and administrators. As well as the usual comments that can be sent out, such as when a child does well in their homework, the app helps teachers inform parents about behaviours they want to encourage at home as well, for example, “helping others” and “persistence”.

It should be noted that app communication between parents and teachers is confined to school hours, and school business only. As always, if a parent needs to communicate important information to the school, the dialann scoile / phone call to the school continues to be the preferred form of communication, as the teacher / internet access may not always be available.

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS:

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

Where possible they will be held in the first term, towards the end of November for all classes, and once again immediately after the Easter break. The school will attempt to co-ordinate times where siblings are concerned.

Meetings are a really important opportunity for parents and teachers to exchange information about your child's progress and we encourage parent to attend the meeting or if not possible, to arrange for an alternative appointment.

THE PURPOSE OF THE PARENT/TEACHER MEETING IS:

- ✓ To share all positives about the child
- ✓ To learn more about the child from the parent's perspective
- ✓ To help children realise that home and school are working together
- ✓ To share with the parent the problems and difficulties the child may have in school
- ✓ To let parents know how their children are progressing in school
- ✓ To identify areas of tension and disagreement

FORMAL MEETINGS-IEP'S:

For some parents whose children attend Múinteoir Siúinín and / or Múinteoir Ciara, an Individual Education Plan (IEP)meeting will take place at the beginning of each new school term, in September/October, January and April. 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.

END OF YEAR REPORTING:

- ✓ An end-of-year school report is issued by post to parents in June.
- ✓ All communication from the school will be posted to the child's home address as given on the enrolment form, unless otherwise requested/notified by parents.
- ✓ In the case of married but separated parents, requests may be made by both parents to have a copy of the end-of-year report posted to their address.
- ✓ In the case of unmarried separated parents, requests may be made by both parents to have a copy of the end-of-year report posted to their address subject to the natural father having established his 'guardianship, custody and access rights' through the court and/or by means of statutory declaration made by the natural mother.

THE REPORT CARDS PROVIDE FOR REPORTING IN FOUR KEY AREAS:

- ✓ Your child's learning and achievement across the curriculum
- ✓ Your child's attitude and enthusiasm for learning
- ✓ Your child's social and personal development
- ✓ Ways in which parents can support their child's learning

Gaelscoil Bhun Cranncha uses standard NCCA report card templates for reporting to parents on students' progress and achievement at school. The Standardised Testing (Drumcondra) scores achieved by pupils in Rang 2, 4 agus 6 are contained in the report.

PROCEDURES FOR ADDRESSING COMPLAINTS:

Despite our best efforts, disagreements and/or complaints may arise from time. We hope that this policy is seen as supporting a preventative rather than a curative response to the difficulties that may occasionally develop.

In the interests of reaching a solution, all disputes/challenges should be addressed initially at a more informal level, usually involving contact and communication between parent and teacher. Experience has shown that where a mutually respectful willingness exists between parent and teacher to discuss difficulties then the majority of such matters are resolved speedily and to the satisfaction of all involved.

Where a satisfactory resolution of the issues is not achieved at the more informal level, then parent and/or teacher may wish to pursue the matter further and involve themselves in a more formal approach to seek resolution of the matter.

The Complaints Procedure agreed by the INTO and An Foras Pátrúnachta in 1993 was adopted by the Board of Management of Gaelscoil Bhun Cranncha 29/04/15. A copy is available from the school office.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

All staff members, parents, pupils and BoM members share responsibility for supporting the implementation of the Home/School Partnership Policy.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

The school evaluates the success of this Policy through:

- ✓ Positive and supportive engagement and participation of parents, staff, BoM members and pupils in the education process
- ✓ Feedback, as appropriate, from all members of the school community
- ✓ Indications that the smooth and efficient running and organisation of the school is enhanced through the implementation of this policy

- ✓ The indications that the facilitation and implementation of the Home/School Partnership Policy are enhancing the learning opportunities of the pupils of the school.

RATIFICATION AND COMMUNICATION

The policy was subsequently reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management at its meeting on [04/10/17]. Its implementation was deemed effective from that date.

A copy of this policy was made available to all members of staff. Parents were made aware of the existence and availability of the policy by means of family note, and this policy is also available from the office at Gaelscoil Bhun Cranncha.

REVIEW

A review of this policy will be conducted in 2020, based on the success criteria outlined above.

DAIGNIÚ AGUS CUMARSÁID

Ina dhiaidh sin, rinne an Bord Bainistíochta athbhreithniú air ag cruinniú [04/10/17]. Glactar leis gur cuireadh i bhfeidhm ón dáta seo é. Cuirfear cóip ar fáil do ghach ball foirne. Cuirfear tuismitheoirí ar an eolas go bhfuil an polasaí sé ar fáil ón oifig agus é a iarraidh. Cuirfear cóip sa réamheolaire a fhaigheann tuismitheoirí nuair a chláraíonn siad dalta.

ATHBHREITHNIÚ

Déanfar athbhreithniú ar an pholasaí seo, a bheas bunaithe ar na critéir ratha thuasluaite, i 2020.

