

**DERRYLATINEE ST FRANCIS
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



***PARENTAL
INVOLEMENT POLICY***

POLICY ON PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT;

We, in Derrylatinee, realise that teachers must work with parents as a team and if members of the team are working either in isolation or opposition there will be conflict and confusion. This team approach however must serve to encourage and benefit the child.

Aims:

1. To encourage parents to become partners in children's learning.
2. To enable parents to understand what is happening in school and the reason for and effects of educational changes.
3. To give parents opportunities to discuss issues and attend Workshops which affect the education of their children.

We further realise that the school is obliged to involve parents in its operation because current legislation grants them right in the following areas:-

- Choice of school for their child
- Access to their child's records
- The right of consultation about a child's special educational needs
- The right of consultation about sex education
- The right of consultation of outside agencies who are involved with their child

- Representation on Board of Governors
- Regular Newsletter
- School Reports
- Termly meetings and workshops to help parents understand the curriculum
- Open days including concerts and sports days
- Activities and functions arranged through parent support group
- School visits where parents may help with transport.

We realise the importance of explaining to and discussing with parents at approximate times about:-

- Paired Reading
- Decomposition
- Statementing procedures
- Arrangements for transfer to secondary school
- Preparation for First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation.

PARENT REQUESTED:

Parents are very welcome to come to school to discuss their children's progress. To avoid disruption of classroom work, the following procedures should be followed:-

- (a) **Emergency** – Parents should telephone the school to arrange a discussion with the Principal or class teacher
- (b) **Non-Emergency** – Parents should contact the school secretary who will Arrange an interview with the class teacher at a mutually convenient time within two days of the request having been made.

PARENTS AS SOURCE OF INFORMATION:

Parents are an obvious source of background such as:-

- The child's attitude at home to work, play and friends
- The child's interests and hobbies
- Factors relating to health
- Parental expectations
- Changes in family circumstances

THE ROLE OF THE PARENT:

Perhaps the greatest support which parents can give to their children's education is to provide them with dispositions to value the school and want to do well there. We would hope that parents would consider the following measures.

1. **Attendance:** - Parents should ensure that their children go to bed early and attend school regularly.

2. **Personal Appearance** - Parents should ensure that their child's personal appearance and uniform is clean, neat and tidy.

3. **Respect and Discipline** –
 - (a) Parents should see that their children respect, obey and co-operate with the teachers and other school staff.
 - (b) They should encourage their children to use the school building, resources and furnishings with due care, conscious that others will

need these facilities after them. Parents should ensure that their child cares for learning materials, particularly those which belong to the school, e.g. reading books, texts, etc.

4. Homework:

Again, homework requires a genuine partnership between teachers and parents. This partnership involves mutual understanding and trust based on concern for the well-being and development of each pupil as an individual.

School policy is for each child to have reading homework every night and no homework at the weekend. Homework is generally set as a supplement to what is done in school. Therefore the child does not need to be “taught” at home. He is simply reinforcing or consolidating what has been learnt in school. However, homework can also embrace activities such as art work, music making, work referring to stimulating experiences such as visits to the Folk Park, Zoo, farm, museum or stately home.

Homework should be limited to maximum:-

P1 & P2	=	20 minutes
P3	=	30 minutes
P4	=	40 minutes
P5	=	50 minutes
P6 & P7	=	1 hour to 1hour 30 minutes

By demonstrating an interest in school work, parents give added importance and worth to some work and so, motivate their children.

How the parent can help their child in specific curricular areas:

English:

Bullock Report

“We believe that language competence grows through the inter-action of writing, talking and experience, the body of resulting work forming an organic whole.

Talking and Listening:

The parent can play a vital role in, and can make a major contribution to the language development of their child, by regularly talking and listening to their child. Parents should also encourage their child to listen properly to the teacher and ask questions if there is anything they don't understand.

Reading:

1. Read to your child. This is one of the most obvious ways to demonstrate the delight and excitement of books.
2. Listen to your child read everyday if possible – try to make it enjoyable.
3. Especially for younger children, talk about the picture first. Let your child predict what may happen on the next page.
4. Don't try to read when the television is on.

5. As well as the nightly “reading book” homework, also encourage your child to read library books of their choice.

Phonics and sound work is an important pre-requisite to spellings. You can help your child with phonics – using this game – find me something beginning with ‘a’. What sound does this letter make?

Writing:

1. Try to ensure that your child’s written homework is neat with a well formulated style of handwriting.
2. Spelling homework is given in P3 – P7 and should be learned using the look, cover, write, check method.

Maths:

It is necessary for home and school to use the same language in order to avoid confusing the child.

Therefore, parent workshops are held dealing with:-

- Decomposition
- Maths games

Science:

As with maths, it is important that home and school are using the same language and again, there are workshops where parents are divided in groups to become scientists exploring and investigating different things.

Parents in the Classroom:

We welcome parents in the classroom:

1. As experts (in connection with experiences) on an occasional basis
2. The parent support group has been of great help in fund raising activities, i.e. to provide equipment, resources and books.
3. By providing audiences for Christmas concerts, Feis appearances and sporting occasions.

This policy will be reviewed on 1/6/17