

PARENT / TEACHER LINKS

The Board of Management endorses the view that good communication and effective co-operation between parents and teachers is fundamental to the development of a happy and effective learning environment. To this end a variety of communications links are used: -

- An induction meeting is held for all parents with children starting school each year and school policy, aims, curriculum and organisation are explained.
- Parents are encouraged to keep in regular contact with class teachers and so keep informed about children's progress and discuss any concerns they may have. Such visits are regarded as informal contact, but where a parent/teacher feels that they need time to discuss things at greater length; an appointment should be made in advance at a mutually suitable time.
- The pupil's homework notebook is a vehicle of communication between parents and teachers from first class upwards.
- Many occasions arise during the year for parents and teachers to meet in an informal atmosphere such as match days, Confirmation Day, First Holy Communion Day, etc.
- The school issues newsletters and notes from time to time with information of interest or concern to parents.
- All children from infants to sixth class have a formal parent/teacher meeting once a year and receive an end of year school report.
- Formal meetings are arranged at intervals throughout the child's school career – First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Parents have an opportunity to meet with the class teacher at such meetings.
- If there are any concerns, which are not satisfactorily resolved, a parent/teacher may request a meeting with the Principal to discuss any such issues. Ultimately, responsibility for the school lies with the Board of Management and any parent who has an unresolved grievance or concern may refer to the Chairperson of the Board of Management.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

It is essential that parents are informed about school, i.e.

- 1) its successes,
- 2) its difficulties,
- 3) what it is trying to achieve,
- 4) what it has to offer,
- 5) what it needs etc.

One of the best ways of keeping in touch and becoming an informed parent is by being involved with the Parents Association, which is under the umbrella of the National Parents Council. The Parents' Association promotes the interests of pupils in the school in co-operation with the Board of Management, Principal, teachers and students.

WHAT IS ITS ROLE?

The association is actively involved in the operation of all aspects of the school. For example: -

- a) Fundraising is always difficult. Sometimes the school might need extra equipment, which would improve the facilities in the school. The Parents Association organises fundraisers to help with the purchase of equipment.
- b) They also organise special treats and parties for First Communicants and provide refreshments for visitors to the school.
- c) The Parents Association organises a Book Fair annually.

A Parents Association can be the medium for liaison with the Principal and staff. It can also be the forum where the talents of parents can be harnessed to further the development of the school.