



## **Parents as Partners Policy**

### **1.0 Introduction.**

Scoil Aonghusa Special School is committed to ensuring that every child receives a quality education. We want to work with parents/guardians to ensure that we support their child's learning in whatever way we can. We acknowledge the role of parents as partners in education. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in the life of the school. It is crucial to the success of our pupils that the school fosters parental interest and support. Communication between school and home should be open and positive. Scoil Aonghusa acknowledges that the parents are the primary educators of their children and we endeavour to create an open and welcoming atmosphere in our school at all times. This policy outlines strategies adopted by the school to promote positive home school relations.

### **2.0 The Policy's relationship to the school's mission statement.**

Scoil Aonghusa aims to promote the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the pupil: intellectual, physical, cultural, moral, emotional and spiritual. We endeavour to equip each child with the skills and positive self-esteem to empower them to contribute to their community and become lifelong learners. We believe that a positive working relationship with parents/guardians is fundamental to the achievement of this aim.

### **3.0 Parent –teacher communication.**

#### **3.1 Parent teacher meetings.**

Parents are welcome in our school and are encouraged to keep in regular contact with class teachers, Principal/Deputy Principal. We realise that early communication often prevents a later difficulty arising and is in the best interest of our pupils. Parents are encouraged to write a note in the home/school communication diary or contact the school office to arrange an appointment with the class teacher.

Parent teacher meetings are held annually in accordance with Circular 14/04. Parents/guardians have an opportunity to have an individual meeting (Individual Education Planning Meeting) with their child's class teacher and discuss their child's progress both academically and socially. Parents/guardians will be given advance notice of this date(s). In the case where a parent can not come to the school an arrangement will be made for the teacher to travel to their home or to a location that suits them.

### **3.2 Home/school communication diaries.**

The home/school communication diary provides an effective means of daily communication between parent and teacher. Parents and teachers also liaise by telephone and informal written communication.

### **3.3 Beginning of school year communication.**

The Principal sends a welcome letter to all parents/guardians at the beginning of the school year outlining priorities for the coming school year.

### **3.4 End of school year report cards.**

Parents/guardians receive an end of school year report card in June of every year.

### **3.5 Textparent/Aladdin/email.**

The school has established a database of mobile phone numbers and email addresses for parents on the textparent.ie website and through our Aladdin Schools Portal. This facilitates the sending of text messages/emails to all parents or specific groups of parents.

### **3.6 Website**

Our school website is currently undergoing a facelift and will be back in action soon. We have a very active Facebook page where parents can through photo's of the activities that their children engage in.

## **4.0 Parental Involvement.**

We believe that meaningful parental involvement of parents/guardians in school life is crucial to the success of our school as a learning community. The following structures have been put in place to facilitate parental involvement in the life of our school.

### **4.1 Parents visiting during school hours.**

Parents who visit the school during the hours of 08:50am and 2.40pm/2pm (pre-school) must announce their arrival at the school office and not enter through our coded doors. Parents will take a seat in our school reception area while the class is being contacted and will be met by a classroom staff member and taken to the class. We must ask that this is strictly adhered to for reasons of safety and security and to limit classroom disruption.

### **4.2 Parent's Association.**

We do not currently have a Parents Association but we welcome the set up of one. There are two parent nominees on the Board of Management. They actively engage with parents and have arranged coffee mornings in the school for parents to meet.

### **4.3 Fundraising Committee**

We are very lucky to have an active Fundraising Committee here in the school comprising of staff and parents alike. Parents are always welcome to join.

### **4.4 Policy Development**

Copies of draft policies are available to parent's representatives on the Board of Management and once finalised and ratified will be available on our school website.

### **4.5 School events.**

The school hosts many events during the year to encourage the participation of parents/guardians in school life. Examples of these include school shows, fun days etc. We are heavily involved in Special Olympics and are always grateful for parental involvement in this regard.

## **5.0 Review and evaluation procedures.**

We will keep this policy under review and revise it according to its success in encouraging partnership between school and parents/guardians.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_(date)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

David Barry

Chairperson

Board of Management

I have read and agree to the terms and conditions of this policy.

Parents signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_