



**ST. ANNE'S LORETO PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT FRAMEWORK**



## Parental Involvement Framework

### Introduction

This policy was formulated by a sub-committee of teachers and parents in consultation with the Parents Association in St. Anne's Loreto P.S. and has been ratified by the Board of Management of the school on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

- Our school is a community where pupils, parents/guardians and teachers collaborate and work in partnership for our children.
- When parents/guardians decide to send their child to our school they are entering a very important relationship. Parents and guardians are invited to become involved in the school in many ways.
- St Anne's Loreto is a Catholic co-educational primary school with a Catholic ethos under the patronage of the Bishop of Meath. The Board of Management is democratically elected, and the involvement of all parents/guardians is sought and encouraged.
- A degree of parental involvement is a feature of our school and requires a commitment from parents to support the school as the need arises.
- Parents/guardians, as a group, have a range of talents, abilities and skills that have the potential to enrich and extend the educational opportunities provided for the children. It is our policy to identify parents/guardians with specific skills and invite those parents/guardians to share their skills with us at a school and class level. We encourage those parents/guardians, with the time and interest available to them, to offer these in support of the pupils and staff where the need arises.
- Respect for the professional role of the teacher and the statutory responsibilities of the Principal, Patron and the Board of Management is always a priority consideration.
- Parents/guardians are welcome to become involved in the school in many ways and at many levels, for example: serving on school bodies, fundraising, volunteering their time in the

classroom and on campus, accompanying classes on school trips, helping out at school events – the opportunities are many.

### **Benefits of Parental Involvement**

- Children benefit from a greater diversity in the classroom and can also benefit from more one-to-one attention.
- Parental skills may support and complement work already taking place.
- Parental involvement actively supports and encourages the child's learning.
- A wide range of activities may be facilitated. This can be interesting and fun, and can lead to a broader and more holistic education.
- It provides 'good parent/teacher relationships and a better level of understanding between home and school' (National Parents' Council).
- It enhances communication, trust and respect between parents and teachers.
- Parents/guardians can learn about the curriculum.
- Parental involvement allows children to see that school is an extension of home, and therefore fosters the idea of the 'school family'.
- Parental skills can contribute to the smooth running and development of the school.
- Parental involvement provides the opportunity of making lifelong friendships.

### **Guidelines for Getting Involved**

- Parents come into the classroom at the invitation of the teacher by prior arrangement and for an agreed purpose. **Before volunteering their time parents (or any other volunteer) must read the Parental Involvement Framework and the current St. Anne's Loreto P.S. Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment. Following this they must sign an agreement form indicating that they agree to abide by these policies. All parent volunteers must comply with National Garda Vetting requirements.**
- The happiness, welfare and safety of our children are our primary concerns. A child's personal history, academic achievements/abilities, behaviour/personality traits etc. are **strictly confidential**. On leaving the school **volunteers should never discuss the children by name or any associated details**. Failure to respect this request is considered a serious breach of policy.
- Parental practice, individually and collectively from our Parent's Association (PA) will be based upon the guidelines from the NPC 'Working Effectively as a Parent's Association' in mutual consultation and agreement between the Principal and the PA Chairperson.

- All work will be supervised by the teacher. The class teacher remains with the class during all classroom activities.
- Volunteer helpers should be conscious of, and sensitive to, the needs of the entire class, not just the needs of any one child.
- It is expected that the highest standard of behaviour and good manners are to be modelled at all times.
- Punctuality and consistency are crucial. Volunteers should contact the relevant teachers in advance in the event that they cannot follow through with arrangements made so that the teacher has time to make alternative arrangements for the activity.
- In the interests of safety, toddlers and younger children of volunteer parents/guardians cannot be accommodated during classroom activities.
- In the case of an ongoing project that takes place over a number of weeks, parents will meet with the teacher to discuss the activity. It remains the responsibility of the teacher to determine how appropriate the activity is (e.g.: Is it suitable for the age group? Has something similar been covered already? etc.). The class teacher has the final say in the event that he/she feels that the activity is falling short of its original aims and objectives.
- The school ethos must be upheld at all times. Our school is a Catholic co-educational primary school. It is equality based, child centred and democratically run. Consequently, respect and confidentiality for all of the partners in education, namely children, staff members and parents, must be upheld at all times without exception. Any breaches must be reported to the Principal (promptly). Any persons found to breach confidentiality will be respectfully requested to step down from their commitment.
- Mobile phones must be switched off or on silent during pupil contact time.
- It is the responsibility of teachers to ensure that anyone helping out on a voluntary basis is asked to sign an agreement to abide by the school policy on parental involvement in the school before working in classrooms, helping out with school events or accompanying classes on trips. Teachers must ensure volunteers are made aware of the importance of confidentiality.

This Parental Involvement Framework was ratified by St. Anne's Loreto Primary School, Board of Management on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

Signed: *Máire O'Donoghue*  
 Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: *Clíodhna O'Brien*  
 Principal

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

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## Parental Involvement Agreement Form

I have read the Parental Involvement Framework and the Child Protection Policy and agree to abide these while working as a volunteer in the school.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mobile:** \_\_\_\_\_