

Scoil na Croise Naofa Home / School Policy

This policy was formulated by collating the views of parents and teachers at Scoil na Croise Naofa . All parents and teachers were invited to participate in this consultative process, which was facilitated by the Home School Community Liaison Coordinator in the Parents' Room in April/May 2011.

*Each agreed they would have failed,
If they had worked alone
For behind the parent stood the school,
And behind the teacher, the home.*

'The Sculptors' by Mark Taylor

Scoil na Croise Naofa is characterised by a warm, welcoming and supportive atmosphere, where home and school work together in a spirit of partnership, to ensure the social, emotional and educational well-being of our children. This ethos is encapsulated in our mission statement 'We Welcome, We Encourage, We learn'.

- Parents are made welcome by all school personnel and a variety of opportunities are provided to engage parents with their children's education.
- We communicate with parents in a positive, clear, open and respectful manner and we encourage parents to communicate regularly with us.
- Parents are actively encouraged to join the Parents Association, from which they elect two members to the Board of Management of the school.

We inform parents of their child's progress through

- Formal and Informal parent teacher meetings
- The school journal and notes to parents.
- End of year school reports

We inform parents of school events by

- Notes home
- Notices around the school and on the Notice Board
- Newsletter
- Text a parent service
- School website
- Displays of photographs around the school.

Parents are invited to attend

- School concerts
- Sports days
- Educational trips e.g. visit to library, third level institutions e.g.C.I.T.
- Fundraising activities e.g. Christmas raffle
- Prize giving ceremonies
- School Masses.

Parents are supported with their child's learning in the home through

- Class meetings
- Pre entry meeting for incoming Junior Infants
- Formal and Informal parent teacher meetings
- Meeting with learning support teachers/involvement in drawing up I.E.P.'s
- Involvement in parent /child activities e.g. Maths for Fun / Cookery/ Art and craft Activities / Child's Play/Science workshops
- Literacy initiatives- Story time/English for Fun, participation in reading workstations/Write a book project/ Shared novel 'One Book , One Mahon'
- Toy Library
- Language Development programmes.
- Courses and classes for parents in the Parents Room – Leisure Courses, Curricular courses and Personal Development/Parenting courses.'
- Home visitation by the Home School Coordinator

Policy Formation

We work in partnership with parents on relevant school policies and we support parents to participate in policy formation.

Partnership between School and Statutory /Voluntary Agencies

We work in partnership with other schools in the area – preschools, other primary schools, second level and third level institutions.

We maintain effective links with

- S.C.P - School Completion Programme.
- NEWB- National Education Welfare Board
- NEPS – National Educational Psychological Service
- HSE/Barnardos
- V.E.C./Cork City Partnership/Mahon Education Network
- NALA – National Adult Literacy Agency

Benefits of Parental Involvement ***as identified by parents and teachers.***

- Builds the child's self-esteem and confidence and strengthens the child's performance in school.
- Allows children to see school as an extension of the home, by encouraging educational activities from school in the home.
- Allows parents to experience how school has changed from their school days.
- Builds up trust and mutual understanding between parents and teachers.
- Provides parents with an opportunity to meet other children and parents in the school.
- Builds up the confidence of parents and provides support for parents with their child's learning.
- Provides an opportunity for parents to observe their child in a school setting, celebrate their achievements and address any challenges.
- Provides an opportunity for parents to talk to teachers in an informal way.
- Provides parents with an opportunity to learn about the curriculum.
- Provides a valuable resource for teachers in the organisation and delivery of elements of the curriculum in the classroom.

It is the responsibility of parents to

- Ensure that their children attend school regularly and punctually.
- To supervise homework and ensure that it is completed and signed.
- To reinforce and support the code of behaviour.
- To keep the lines of communication open with the school.

It is the responsibility of the school

- To act in 'loco parentis' in the education and care of the children
- To treat each child with respect and dignity
- To promote the development of the full potential of the children in each area of the curriculum
- To inform the Educational Welfare Officer if the school is concerned about irregular attendance.
- To keep the lines of communication open with parents.

Success criteria: The success of this policy will be evaluated by

- Feedback from parents and staff
- Benefits to pupils learning
- The number of parents involved in school activities

Implementation date: Sept.2011

This policy will be communicated to all parents at class meetings in Sept 2011 and will be available on the school website.

Review date : This policy will be reviewed should the need arise.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management in June 2011.

