



## **Crecora National School**

# **Policy on Parental Involvement**

### **Introduction**

Crecora National School is a community where pupils, parents and teachers collaborate and work in partnership for our children. When parents decide to send their child to our school they are entering a very important relationship. "Partnership between home and school is important because with positive and active partnership, the child gets the best primary education can offer". (Working effectively as a Parent Association-NPCP 2004)  
This policy was developed by staff during Croke Park Hours in September 2014 and subsequently ratified by the Board of Management on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2014. It was given to the Chairperson of the Parents' Council on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2014 and circulated to parents through the school website.

### **Rationale**

The formulation of a Policy on Parental Involvement was considered necessary for the following reasons:

- To acknowledge and record good practice in this area to date in our school
- To comply with the regulatory and legislative requirements of the school self evaluation process with specific reference to Circular 24/91 and the 1998 Education Act
- To formulise procedures involved
- To plan for greater levels of parental involvement

### **Relationship to Characteristic Spirit of the School**

The school promotes positive home school contacts and endeavours to enhance the self esteem of everyone within the school community. The school contributes towards those ideals.

### **Aims/Objectives**

To promote and facilitate the involvement of parents in their child's education.  
To acknowledge parents as the primary educators of their child/children.  
To list the benefits of parental involvement.  
To offer guidelines for parental involvement.

### **Benefits of Parental Involvement**

- Parental skills may complement and support work already taking place.
- It promotes good parent/teacher relationships and a better understanding between school and home.
- Parents can learn about the curriculum.
- Parental involvement supports the idea of a school community.
- It helps children see school as an extension of home.

### **List of Parental Involvement to date**

A high level of parental involvement is a feature of our school. Such involvement includes;



- Serving on Board of Management.
- Serving on Parents' Council.
- Members of parents' Council.
- Fundraising activities such as bagpacking and race nights.
- Policy making through Parents' Council e.g. Code of Behaviour/Relationships and Sexuality Education/Opening/Closing Times/Uniforms/Homework Policy.
- Aistear in Junior and Senior Infants. Aistear is a play based methodology and many parents volunteer their time during various themes such as "The Hospital", "The Veterinary Clinic" etc . During these themes, parents who are nurses, doctors, pharmacists etc help enrich these experiences.
- Junior Entrepreneur Programme. This is a project to promote the spirit of entrepreneurship. Parents involved in business speak to the children and adjudicate on "Dragon's Den". Many parents also supply materials/equipment to the school and help out with production.
- Science Week/Engineering Week. Parents working in Science and Engineering have shared their knowledge and experiences with children in visits to the classroom.
- Sports Activities. Parents have been involved in coaching school hurling and football teams and transporting them to matches. Parents have also been involved in teaching rounders.
- School Library. A parent is involved in scanning ,labelling, filing and covering books in the school library on a very regular basis.
- Book Rental. Parents are involved in stamping, covering, labelling, sorting and distributing book rental books. They are also involved in the management of the book rental bank account and for collecting and lodging money as well as paying bills.
- Coiste Gaeilge. A parent is secretary of the Coiste Gaeilge and attends meetings on a monthly basis.
- Parents are involved in procuring and managing after school activities for the school.
- Parents are members of the Sacramental Classes Committees.
- Family Reading. Parents of children in Junior Infants attend a family reading workshop during the school year.
- C.A.P.E.R. (Children and Parents Enjoying Reading) Parents support this initiative at home on a nightly basis.
- Mata Le Chéile. Parents play selected maths games with their children on given nights throughout the school year.
- Attending Meetings. Parents attend formal parent teacher meetings after school during term one of the school year. They also attend information nights such as:
  - Welcome night for parents of new children
  - Junior Entrepreneur Programme
  - Numeracy/Literacy
  - First Holy Communion
  - Sacrament of Reconciliation
  - Sacrament of Confirmation
  - Drugs Awareness
  - Relationships and Sexuality Programme
  - Book Rental
- School Show. Parents make costumes and attend school shows. Parents also act as parking stewards to facilitate safe parking on the night of the show.
- Christmas Carol Concert. Parents attend the Christmas Carol Concert in December.
- Celebrations. Many parents attend Mass at the beginning and end of the school year.



- Graduation. Parents of 6<sup>th</sup> Class children attend a graduation ceremony at the end of the school year.
- Gaelbhreach. Parents have been involved in the making of a dvd, as a requirement promoting Irish within the school as part requirement for the granting of an Irish flag to the school.
- Grandparents' Day. Many parents accompany their own parents to our very special celebration during Catholic Schools Week when grandparents spend a morning in our school.
- Cake Sale/Coffee afternoon . Parents bake cakes for our cake sale and attend coffee afternoons for our charitable fundraisers e.g. Haiti, Flooding in Limerick, Famine in Somalia etc.
- Colours Day. Parents support this day which is used for charitable fundraising.
- Multiple Sclerosis Readathon. Parents also support this readathon which is a fundraiser for the Multiple Sclerosis Association.
- Art Work. A parent volunteered time and expertise to decorate our school hall with Irish phrases in an attempt to promote Irish within the school.
- Daffodil Day. Parents send in daffodils to the school on this day. They are collected by representatives of the Conquer Cancer organisation and are sold as fundraising for this initiative.

### **Guidelines for Parental Involvement**

- Respect for the professional role of the teacher, SNA and the statutory responsibilities of the Principal, Patron and the Board of Management is always an important consideration.
- Parents should come into the classroom **only** at the invitation of the teacher, and for an agreed purpose. They work it, with the teacher by prior arrangement, in a planned and co-ordinated way and can lend a welcome hand in areas identified by the teacher.
- The happiness, welfare and safety of the children are our primary concern. A child's personal history and academic achievements are strictly confidential.
- Parents must behave in accordance with the school's Child Protection Policy.
- Parents should refrain from touching children inappropriately.
- The school ethos must be upheld at all times.
- Discipline remains the responsibility of the teacher.
- Parents who are invited in to the school are advised that it is not considered appropriate for him/her at any time to be in the company of an individual child.
- In the interests of health and safety, toddlers and younger children cannot be accommodated during a school activity.
- The highest standard of behaviour and language is expected.
- Parents, coming into the school by request, must consult with the Principal before inviting other individuals/parents to participate.
- Parents coming into a specific classroom with a specific purpose will be asked to sign the accompanying confidentiality clause.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

Parental involvement and management of same remain the responsibility of individual class teachers and the principal. No parental involvement arrangements will take place without the prior approval of the Principal.

### **Success Criteria**

## **Creora National School**



The school has been evaluating the effectiveness of this policy through monitoring, pupil feedback, staff feedback and the views of parents and will continue to do so.

### **Implementation Date**

The guidelines outlined in this policy will be effective immediately.

### **Communication**

This policy is circulated to all teaching staff by email. A copy of this policy will be posted on the school's website and it may be viewed in the Principal's Office by request.

### **Ratification**

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2014.

\_\_\_\_\_, Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson Board of Management

### **Proposed date of Review**

September 2018

Please note that an appendix to this document contains guidelines for parents in the classroom and a confidentiality form.



## **Appendix**

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**Creora National School Parental Involvement Agreement Form**

I have read the policy document on Parental Involvement in the School and agree to abide by the guidelines.

Teachers talk about their job constantly. Conversations at breaks and lunchtimes are often about school. I realise that such conversations are regarded as confidential.

Similarly, the work, progress and behaviour of individual children are a matter of fact for the teacher, the child and the parents of the child. I realise that this information is strictly confidential.

I completely understand the need for such confidentiality on school matters. As a parent involved in helping in the school, I agree to respect confidentiality on such matters to avoid misunderstandings and upset.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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