



Parental Involvement Policy

1. Rationale

Scoil Mhuire is a school community where pupils, parents/ guardians and teachers collaborate and work in partnership for our children. When parents/ guardians decide to send their children to our school, they are entering a very important relationship. Parents are our partners in education and are invited and encouraged to be involved, at every possible opportunity in their children's education journey through the school.

Scoil Mhuire recognises that 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 invite those parents to our school. We highly encourage those parents/ guardians, with the time and interest available to them, to do so.

2. Benefits of Parental Involvement

- Children benefit from more one-to-one attention.
- Children benefit from a greater diversity in the classroom.
- It enhances communication, trust and respect between parents and teachers.
- Parental skills may support and complement work already taking place.
- Parental involvement actively supports and encourages the child's learning.
- It provides 'good parent/ teacher relationships and a better level of understanding between home and school' (National Parents' Council).
- Parents/ guardians can learn more about and develop a better understanding of the curriculum.
- Parental involvement allows children to see that school is an extension of home.

3. Guidelines for Parental Involvement

- Parents/ guardians come into the classroom at the invitation of the teacher by prior arrangement and for an agreed purpose. Before volunteering their time parents must read the Parental Involvement Policy and the Child Safeguarding Statement. Following this they must sign an agreement form

indicating that they agree to abide by these policies. All parental volunteers must comply with garda vetting requirements.

- All work will be supervised by the teacher/HSCL. The class teacher remains with the class during all classroom activities.
- The happiness, welfare and safety of our children are our primary concerns. A child's personal history, academic achievements, abilities, behaviour, personality traits are strictly confidential. On leaving the school volunteers should never discuss the children. Failure to respect this request is considered a breach of policy.
- Volunteer helpers should be conscious of, and sensitive to, the needs of the entire class, not just the needs of any one child.
- The highest standard of behaviour, good manners and language are expected.
- Punctuality and consistency are crucial.
- Mobile phones must be switched off or on silent during pupil contact time.
- It is the responsibility of the HSCL co-ordinator 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 and accompanying classes on trips. Teachers must ensure volunteers are made aware of the importance of confidentiality.

4. Success Criteria

The school will be evaluating the effectiveness of the policy through monitoring, staff feedback and the views of parents/ guardians.

Practical indicators as to the success of this policy in Scoil Mhuire:

- Improved learning by the pupils.
- Increased opportunities to engage the parents and pupils in a more diverse range of activities.
- Happy, well-adjusted children, with positive attitudes to school and high levels of motivation and self-esteem.
- Positive parental feedback.
- Positive feedback from pupils, teachers, SNA's and all staff.
- Improved partnership between class teachers and parents/ guardians.

5. Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly and amendments made if necessary.

6. Ratification

This policy was ratified by the board of management of Scoil Mhuire on_____

Signed: _____

Chairperson of the Board of Management.

Parental Involvement Agreement Form

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

Name: _____

Signature: _____