

Edenderry Nursery School Parents as Partners Policy

Vision

The involvement of parents and significant adults is believed by the staff to be a positive and an integral part of the positive educational experience of the pupils.

Mission

- Parents are the first and main educators of their child. It is important to the school therefore that good relationships exist between home and school, as the ultimate benefit will be to the child.
- Parents can rediscover the aspect of fun in learning and therefore support this development in their child.
- To embed a family focused ethos in the learning environment.
- Respect that for each pupil the learning process is holistic.
- For the nursery to be a valued part of the local and greater community.
- That parents become more confident of their important role of participation in the learning process.
- To support the vital development of parents' advocacy for their child in their journey of learning.

Procedures

Much enjoyment can arise through shared learning opportunities between the Nursery team and parents. To this end, staff endeavour to positively develop links between home and school by the following means;

- Parents should at all times feel welcome in the school. They play an important part of the life of the school.
- Staff value the support and interest of the parents in the educational progress of the children.
- Parents are actively encouraged to be involved in school life by the following means -
 - Newsletters
 - Parent's Board
 - Use of the Parent's 'Sunshine' Room
 - Shared learning programme in the school.
 - Extended schools cluster focus.
 - Parent involvement programme running within the school and classrooms
 - An annual planned programme of events and liaison opportunities. (Social events and educational activities)
 - Regular contact arrangements, eg parent and teacher interviews
 - Involvement in visits out of school and also events within the school.
 - Participation and responsibility in curricular events such as 'Record of Development' folders of the children and schemes such as 'Flip the Bear'.
 - A fun and needs led programme of events for parents and family members offering further learning opportunities.

- Staff believe that when planning parent events, parents should be consulted in the planning process so as much benefit can be gained as possible. (Questionnaires and evaluation strategies)
- It is aimed that parent groups are afforded hospitality and facilities where possible within the nursery building.
- Parents have an important role to play in fundraising events, both for charity and school equipment. This facilitates a greater sense of parent ownership within the nursery.
- It is also hoped to encourage with parents, opportunities for educational, social and hospitality events.
- A parent's library is available. It is hoped that this will help to keep parents informed of areas of interest that are important to the overall development of their child.
- Two parental representatives serve on the school's Board of Governors.
- An Annual General report is made available to parents in the school each year.
- A copy of all school policies is available to parents in the Sunshine Room.
- Parents are encouraged to play an important role in the educational development of their child, therefore, teacher parent meetings are held regularly and the children's records are available to parents. Teaching staff are available to talk to individual parents from 1.30pm – 3.30pm each day.
- Parents are welcome to participate in classroom life in accordance with the planned programme and encouraged to come on school trips with the children. All helpers in school life are vetted under the Child Protection requirements. This scheme is enhanced by a planned programme of 'Family Days' in the nursery throughout the year.
- Each year, parents are to receive a copy of this policy.