

Curragh Post Primary School

Introduction and Scope of this Policy:

This document sets out the policy of Curragh Post Primary School in respect of the relationships that the school aspires to develop and maintain with the parents / guardians of our students through the Parents' Council. It, also, outlines some of the valuable contribution that can be made by our Parents' Council.

Relationship to school's Mission / Vision / Aims:

Curragh Post Primary School's Mission Statement is as follows:

Our School values the gifts and talents of students and staff in their development in an atmosphere of equity, caring and mutual respect. Can we achieve this? Yes, we can. Is Feidir Linn.

This Parents' Council Policy is another important framework within which "the development of whole people, empowered to lead effective lives in the wider society" is enhanced in our school. The dignity of each student, staff member and parent / guardian is honoured and reflected in school policies and structures, including this policy.

This Parents' Council Policy is informed by the school's Mission Statement which commits us to preparing all students for the challenges of adolescent and adult life and to respecting the dignity, worth and individuality of every member of the school community. The school's role in the development of young people supports and is enriched by the active participation of parents / guardians in all aspects of their children's lives. The work of the Parents' Council adds to the quality of the relationships within the school community and to the holistic, educational experience of our students.

Rationale:

This Parents' Council Policy aims to ensure that appropriate opportunities and procedures are in place to enable the school

- to ensure that parents / guardians are as fully informed as possible about the activities of their children;
- to increase the parents' / guardians awareness of the school's role in the education of their children and
- to ensure that parents / guardians are encouraged to participate as fully as possible in the school related activities of their children.

Goals:

The school shall have in place appropriate means and processes

- to inform parents / guardians about the work of the school;
- to involve parents / guardians in the work of the school;
- to inform parents / guardians about the work / activities and progress of their children in the school;
- to involve parents / guardians in the work / activities and progress of their children in the school and, ultimately,
- to support the role of parents / guardians as the primary educators.

Role of Parents / Guardians and the Parents' Council:

The school is a supportive organisation in respect of the primary educators – parents / guardians. Our efforts to provide holistic education, in its various forms, are most meaningful and effective when parents / guardians both understand and support our aims and activities. Parents / guardians are most effective when they do their best to ensure that

Curragh Post Primary School

- their children are imbued with a positive attitude to education in general and this school in particular;
- their children come to school and all classes with all of the required books, uniform, equipment and materials, etc.;
- the “Guidelines for All Students” (see attached copy) are fostered by parents / guardians with their children and followed by the students concerned;
- their children are aware of and fully compliant with the school’s Code of Behaviour;
- their children work hard both within and outside school at their studies;
- they encourage their children to participate in a range of extra / co curricular activities;
- they attend parent – teacher meetings, parent information evenings and school events and
- they support the ongoing work of in school management, the Board of Management, all school staff, the Parents’ Council and, where appropriate, the Students’ Council.

The school’s Parents’ Council operates in accordance with its own constitution. Membership of the Parents’ Council is open to all parents / guardians who wish to participate.

The A.G.M. of the Parents’ Council normally takes place in September / October. Among other agenda items, the election of the various officers takes place at this A.G.M. Normal meetings are held, on average, once a month during the school year (usually, the second Thursday of each month). Meetings are normally attended by the Principal, Deputy Principal and the school Chaplain. They are a valued opportunity for an exchange of views on how best to respond to situations that arise in the school. Parents / guardians are consulted and school policy is explained. When school policies are being considered and / or reviewed, the views of the membership of the Council are sought and incorporated into policies that go before the Board of Management for consideration. Members of the Parents’ Council, sometimes, assist in the organisation of various activities, such as parents’ evenings, fundraising events, graduation, etc.

Review Procedures:

The policy will be reviewed regularly and by the Board of Management at least once every four years. Any staff member who is unhappy with the content or the implementation of any school policy may request a review at any time and such a request will be dealt with as quickly as possible. The Parents’ Council may request a formal review at any time and such a request will be dealt with as quickly as possible by the Board of Management.

Adopted by Board of Management: March 3rd 2014

Review Date: March 2018