



Our Lady of Mercy Convent School

Rosemount Terrace, Booterstown, Co. Dublin

Tel: 01 2884223 email: ourladyofmercyoffice@gmail.com

Principal: Siobhán Hanly: olomprincipal@gmail.com

POLICY re PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Introduction:

The Board of Management of Our Lady of Mercy Convent School is setting out, in this statement, the policy of the school in regard to Parental Involvement in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act, 1998.

The Board trusts that this statement of policy will be of assistance to staff and to parents/guardians in relation to matters relating to Parental Involvement.

The Board also wishes to state that the Chairperson and Principal of the school will be willing to clarify any matters arising from this policy statement.

Title

Policy re Parental Involvement

Introductory Statement

The process of formulating this policy was originally begun in May '08, and the policy was subsequently ratified by the B.O.M. in February 2009. It is currently being reviewed as part of the on-going monitoring/evaluating/review process March 2022.

Our Lady of Mercy Convent School is a community where pupils, parents/guardians and teachers collaborate and work in partnership for our children. When parents/guardians decide to send their child to our school they are entering a very important relationship.

Parents/Guardians are invited to become involved in the school in many ways and at many levels (see Appendix 1: Ways in which parents/guardians are currently involved), e.g.:

- Serving on school bodies (Board of Management, Parents' Association Committee, Project committees e.g. Green Schools, Comenius, Healthy Eating etc.
- Library, Field Trips/Tours, Special Events, Extra-Curricular activities etc.
- Fundraising

Our school is democratically run, as management committees that are democratically elected run it, and the involvement of all parents is sought and encouraged. Yet, respect for the professional role of the teacher and the statutory responsibilities of the Principal and Board of Management are always important considerations.

Rationale



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

- (i) to acknowledge and record good practice in this area to date in our school; and
- (ii) to plan for greater levels of parental involvement, and to formalise the procedures involved.

Relationship to characteristic spirit of the school

The Mission Statement of Our Lady of Mercy Convent School, Booterstown is as follows:

To educate , encourage and celebrate our children and the wider school community as together we grow in body, mind and spirit.

Tá ár dTiarna linn.

Mindful of this Mission Statement, we in our Lady of Mercy Convent School recognise and applaud the benefits witnessed to date as a result of parental involvement in the school; and look forward with confidence to increased levels of activity in this area, developments which can only serve to enrich our whole school community.

Benefits of Parental Involvement

- Parental involvement actively supports, encourages and benefits pupils' learning.
- Parental skills may support and complement work already taking place and can lead to a broader and more holistic education.
- It promotes “good parent/teacher relationships and a better level of understanding between home and school” (National Parents' Council).
- It enhances communication, trust and respect between parents/guardians and teachers.
- Parents/guardians can learn about the school.
- Parental involvement allows children to see that school is an extension of home, and therefore fosters the idea of the ‘school family’.
- Parental skills can contribute to the smooth running and development of the school.
- Parental involvement provides the opportunity of making lifelong friends.

Guidelines for Parental Involvement

- Any parent who wishes to get involved in any aspect of school life must undergo Garda Vetting
- Parents/Guardians who wish to help out should do so at the invitation of the teacher/principal, by prior arrangement and for an agreed purpose. They work in conjunction with the teacher in a planned and co-ordinated way and can lend a welcome hand in many areas which can be identified by the teacher.



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- Parents who participate 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 interest of safety, toddlers and younger children cannot be accommodated while the parent is volunteering to help in the school.
- It is up to the class teacher and school principal to decide on the appropriateness of an activity (e.g. is it suitable for the age group, has something similar already been done etc.).
- Ongoing projects over a number of weeks may enhance and enrich the work the children are involved with in the classroom: parents are encouraged to discuss any ideas they may have with the teacher. The teacher has the final say in the event that he/she feels such a project is falling short of its original aims and objectives.
- The happiness, welfare and safety of the children are our primary concern. A child's personal history and academic achievements are strictly confidential. Any doubts about issues of confidentiality must be discussed with the teacher.
- Respect for teachers in their professional capacity is essential.
- The school ethos must be upheld at all time.
- Discipline remains the responsibility of the teacher.
- All work will be supervised by the teacher.
- Parents who participate should be conscious of and sensitive to the needs of the entire class.
- The highest standard of behaviour and language is expected.
- Punctuality and consistency are crucial.
- Any expenses a parent/guardian wishes to reclaim must be sanctioned in advance by the teacher, and must be accompanied by receipts.

Success Criteria

The school has been evaluating the effectiveness of this policy through monitoring (i) pupil feedback (ii) staff feedback, and (iii) the views of parents/guardians; and will continue to do so.

Practical indicators as to the success of this policy in Our Lady of Mercy Convent School are as previously stated:

- * Increased opportunities to engage the 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 and SNAs,
- * Improved partnership between class teachers and parents/guardians in planning and implementing activities for the pupils.

Implementation Date

The procedures outlined in this policy are immediately effective.



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Timetable for review

The operation of the procedures outlined in the policy above will be reviewed and, if necessary amended every three years; or earlier, if required.

Communication

This policy is circulated to all teaching staff. Furthermore, a copy of this policy will be posted on the school's website and/or it can be inspected in the Administrative Policies folder in the secretary's office.

Ratification

This plan was ratified by the Board of Management.

Signed: _____
(Chairperson, Board of Management)

Dated: _____

Review date: March 2026

Appendix 1: Ways in which parents/guardians are currently involved:

- As parent reps on B.O.M.



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- As members of P.A. committee
- In the Library
- Gardening activities
- Tours/Field Trips
- Sports' activities/events (extra curricular)
- Committees e.g. Green Schools, Healthy Eating etc.
- Special Week Events e.g. Healthy Eating Week, Science Day, Artefacts Day, Maths Week etc.
- Cooking activities
- 'Talks' on topics of specific interest