



**Rush and Lusk Educate
Together National School**
Rathmore Road
Lusk,
County Dublin
K45 WC62

Parental Involvement Policy

Ratified at Board of Management Meeting on **23rd April 2024**

Signed: Lesley Smyth

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Noel Reilly

Principal

Date of next review: April 2027 (or earlier if required)

(*PGTA - acronym for Parent Guardian Teacher Association)

1. Introduction

- Our school is a community where children, parents/guardians and school staff collaborate and work in partnership for our children.
- In keeping with the principles of multi-denominational education, our school is democratically run and the involvement of all parents/guardians is encouraged. We also welcome the involvement of grandparents and other family members under this policy.
- Respect for the professional roles of the school staff and the statutory responsibilities of the Principal, Patron and the Board of Management is always an important consideration.

2. Aim of this Policy

The school values the involvement of parents/guardians in all aspects of school life. This policy was developed in consultation with the PGTA, Principal & Deputy Principal to clarify the role of parents/guardians when involved in school activities.

3. Types of Parental Involvement

- Parents as a group have a wide range of talents, abilities and skills that have the potential to enrich and extend the educational opportunities provided for the children. Parents with specific skills are invited to share their skills with us at a school and class level.
- Parental involvement is a core feature of our school and parents are encouraged to participate in a variety of ways including:
 - Parent Nominees on the Board of Management;
 - Membership of the Committee of the Parent/Guardian Teachers Association (PGTA);
 - Non-curricular policy-making e.g. Healthy Eating policy, Inclusive events policy, etc.
 - Structured volunteering, e.g. Forest Schools, Green Schools, Student Council collaboration etc.
 - Occasional volunteering for specific/one-off events, e.g. Book Fair, Sports Day etc
 - After school activities, e.g. arts and crafts clubs, board game clubs, etc.

4. Benefits of Parental Involvement

- Parental involvement actively supports and encourages the child's learning.
- Parental involvement allows the child to see that school is an extension of home and therefore fosters the idea of the 'school family'.
- Children benefit from greater diversity in the classroom.
- A wide range of activities are facilitated. This can be interesting and fun, and can lead to a broader and more holistic education.
- It promotes 'good parent/school staff relationships and a better understanding between home and school' (National Parents Council).
- It enhances communication, trust and respect between parents/guardians and school staff.
- Parents can be kept up to date on curricular and non- curricular development.
- Parental skills can contribute to the smooth running and development of the school.
- Parental involvement provides the opportunity for networking in the school community.

5. How to Get Involved

- Parents are, first of all, invited to consider their skills, interests and time available, and communicate this information to school staff, the Principal and/or to the PGTA (at the AGM or open days).
- Parents can consult with the class teacher/ school staff about hobbies, skills or interests they can share with the class, bearing in mind that needs change from year to year.
- Parents can work in conjunction with the school staff in a planned and coordinated way. For example, assist with one off projects or events, work with the children at various activities, etc.
- Ongoing projects over a number of weeks may enhance and enrich the work the children are involved with in the classroom: parents/guardians are encouraged to discuss any ideas they may have with the school staff/PGTA, e.g. arts projects, gardening projects, Forest Schools, etc.
- Occasionally, teachers may request parents' involvement with school tours and trips or art and sport activities, on a case by case basis.
- We welcome parents/guardians/other family members with skills, to share them with classes at different levels. The school welcomes all ideas.

5. Good Practice Guidelines for Getting Involved

- Parents are invited into the classroom by school staff, by prior arrangement, and for an agreed purpose.
- The happiness, welfare and safety of our children are our primary concern. A child's personal history and academic achievements are strictly confidential.
- Respect for children and school staff in their professional capacity is essential.
- Responsibility for the safety and well being of the children rests with school staff (link PGTA Guidelines).
- All work will be supervised by school staff.
- Parents who participate should be conscious of and sensitive to the needs of the entire class.
- Parents coming into the classroom must consult with school staff before inviting other parents/guardians/individuals to participate.
- Due to insurance constraints, volunteer parents should not attend classroom activities alone.
- The school ethos must be upheld at all times and it is important to keep in mind that the school is equality based , co-educational, child-centred and democratic. Consequently, respect for all the partners in education – children, school staff and parents/guardians – must be upheld at all times.
- Garda Vetting may be required for more long-term projects and in such cases Parents/Guardians can email or contact the school office for further details.
- Parents will be asked to sign an agreement to abide by the policy on Parental Involvement in the School. (See next page)



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Rush and Lusk Educate Together Parental Involvement Agreement Form

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

Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____