

PARENT-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION and CONSULTATION

Reviewed 06.03.09(Mark, Taz, Donal); Nov 2012 (BOT SubC); Reviewed Nov/Dec 2013 (Tracy/Donal)

ACTION

1. To enhance learning by establishing a responsive and effective partnership with parents/and or caregivers.
2. To inform and seek involvement of the school's community in activities and practices within the school.
3. To encourage community and staff commitment by building on existing networks and structures, and/or establishing new groups or networks.

GUIDELINES

1. A welcoming, warm school atmosphere, acknowledging the value of parents/caregivers support and partnership will be developed.
2. Opportunities to encourage parents/caregivers to visit and communicate with the school will be fostered. The implementation of diverse ethnic opinion will lead to a growth in understanding and appreciation of ethnic difference.
3. Consultation should be an ongoing part of school life rather than a series of unrelated additional tasks.
4. For effective consultation the school must:
 - Ensure the parties involved fully understand the consultative process
 - Develop a commitment from those involved
 - Select meaningful issues to work on
 - Draw on people's strengths and interests
 - Give people prompt feedback and well publicised and constructive action
5. Efficient processes for gathering, collating, analysing and reporting information and opinions shall be adopted.
6. Consideration should be given to using culturally appropriate styles and venues in the local community to meet with parents/caregivers and community members.
7. The school should be responsive to changing methods of communication.