



**Navan Educate Together National School**

**Parental Involvement Policy**

**2022**



## Parental Involvement Policy

### Introduction

This policy was reviewed by teachers and randomly selected parents in consultation with the staff and has been ratified by the Board of Management of the school on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

Signed: Anthony Mackey (Chairperson) Eleanor Barker (Principal)

- Our 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 and guardians are invited to become involved in the school in many ways.
- In keeping with the Ethos of our patron body, Educate Together, our school is democratically run. This means that the Board of Management is democratically elected, and the involvement of all parents/guardians is sought and encouraged.
- A high level of parental involvement is a feature of our school and requires a commitment from parents.

- Parents/guardians, as a group, have a range of talents, abilities and skills that have the potential to enrich and extend the educational opportunities provided for the children. It is our policy to identify parents/guardians with specific skills and invite those parents/guardians to share their skills with us at a school and class level. We highly encourage those parents/guardians, with the time and interest available to them, to do so.
- Respect for the professional role of the teacher and the statutory responsibilities of the Principal, Patron and the Board of Management is always an important consideration.
- Parents/guardians are invited to become involved in the school in many ways and at many levels, for example: serving on school bodies, fundraising, volunteering their time in the classroom, accompanying classes on school trips, helping out at school events – the opportunities are endless.

### **Benefits of Parental Involvement**

- Children benefit from a greater diversity in the classroom.
- Children profit from more one-to-one attention.
- Parental skills may support and complement work already taking place.
- Parental involvement actively supports and encourages the child's learning.
- A wide range of activities is facilitated. This can be interesting and fun, and can lead to a broader and more holistic education.
- It provides '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 and teachers.
- Parents/guardians can learn about the curriculum.

- 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 Getting Involved**

- Parents come into the classroom at the invitation of the teacher by prior arrangement and for an agreed purpose. **Before volunteering their time parents (or any other volunteer) must read the Parental Involvement Policy and the Child Protection Policy. Following this they must sign an agreement form indicating that they agree to abide by these policies. All parental volunteers must comply with Garda Vetting requirements.**
- The happiness, welfare and safety of our children are our primary concerns. A child's personal history, academic achievements/abilities, behaviour/personality traits etc. are **strictly confidential**. On leaving the school **volunteers should never discuss the children**. Failure to respect this request is considered a serious breach of policy.
- All work will be supervised by the teacher. Class teacher remains with class during all classroom activities
- All office work will be supervised by the school secretary or a member of staff.
- Volunteer helpers should be conscious of, and sensitive to, the needs of the entire class, not just the needs of any one child.
- The highest standard of behaviour, good manners and language are expected.

- Punctuality and consistency are crucial.
- In the interests of safety, toddlers and younger children of volunteer parents/guardians cannot be accommodated during classroom activities.
- No fees are payable. Any expenses that you wish to reclaim must be sanctioned in advance by the teacher and must be accompanied by receipts.
- In the case of an ongoing project that takes place over a number of weeks, parents will meet with the teacher to discuss the activity. It remains the responsibility of the teacher to determine the appropriateness (e.g.: Is it suitable for the age group? Has something similar been covered already? etc.). The class teacher has the final say in the event that he/she feels that the activity is falling short of its original aims and objectives.
- The school ethos must be upheld at all times. Our school is equality based, co-educational, child centred and democratically run.  
Consequently, respect for all of the partners in education, namely children, staff and parents, must be upheld at all times.
- Mobile phones must be switched off or on silent during pupil contact time.
- It is the responsibility of teachers to ensure that anyone helping out on a voluntary basis is asked to sign an agreement to abide by the school policy on parental involvement in the school before working in classrooms, helping out with school events or accompanying classes on trips. Teachers must ensure volunteers are made aware of the importance of confidentiality.

Parental Involvement Agreement Form

I have read the Parental Involvement Policy and the Child Protection Policy and agree to abide by these while working as a volunteer in the school.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_