



LIOSMÓR MOCHUDA NATIONAL SCHOOL
Big Trees from Small Acorns Grow

Parents as Partners

Policy Statement

Introduction:

Liosmór Mochuda National School is committed to ensuring that every child receives a quality education.

- We want to work with parents/guardians to ensure that we support their child's learning in whatever way we can.
- We acknowledge the role of parents as partners in education.
- Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in the life of the school. It is crucial to the success of our pupils that the school fosters parental interest and support.
- Communication between school and home should be open and positive.
- Liosmór Mochuda National School acknowledges that the parents are the primary educators of their children and we endeavour to create an open and welcoming atmosphere in our school at all times. This policy outlines strategies adopted by the school to promote positive home-school relations.

The policy's relationship to the school's mission statement and ethos:

Liosmór Mochuda National School aims to promote the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the pupil: intellectual, physical, cultural, moral, emotional and spiritual, including a living relationship with God and other people.

We endeavour to equip each child with the skills and positive self-esteem to empower them to contribute to their community and become lifelong learners. We believe that a positive working relationship with parents/guardians is fundamental to the achievement of this aim.

Parent-teacher communication:

a) Parent-teacher meetings

Parents are welcome in our school and are encouraged to keep in regular contact with class teachers and learning support/resource teachers. We realise that early communication often prevents a later difficulty arising and is in the best interests of our pupils. Parents are encouraged to write a note in the Homework Journal or contact the school office to arrange an appointment with class teachers.

Parent-teacher meetings are held annually in accordance with Circular 14/04. In Liosmór Mochuda we usually hold our annual Parent-teacher meetings early in Term 2, usually within the first three weeks in January.

Parents/Guardians have an opportunity to have an individual meeting with their child's class teacher and discuss their child's progress both academically and socially. Parent/guardians will be given advance notice of this date(s) at least 2 weeks before the date. A letter confirming times will be sent to parents/guardians. Arrangements will be made in the school to ensure that meetings for siblings will be synchronised to accommodate parents/guardians as much as possible. The Principal and Learning Support/Resource teachers will also be available during Parent-teacher meetings.

Our Learning Support and Special Needs Policy also allows for systematic parent-teacher meetings once a term for pupils availing of supplementary teaching. To meet the needs of parents who are unable to attend on the specific date(s) of the Parent-teacher meetings teachers will arrange to meet them before or after school during the week leading to the assigned date(s) for Parent-teacher meetings.

b) Homework journals

The school will provide personalised Homework Journals to pupils at cost price. The Homework Journal provides an effective means of daily communication between parent and teacher.

c) Beginning of the school year communication

The Principal sends a welcome letter to all parents/guardians at the beginning of the school year outlining priorities for the coming school year. This letter will also endeavour to contain a Schedule of Yearly Events. The parents will be reminded of the School Homework Policy for the year which outlines advice and time limits for parents to follow.

d) Induction meeting for new parents

An Induction Meeting is to be held in June or September each year for the parents/guardians of the Junior Infant class for the coming school year. Parents are invited to this meeting by letter. This P.T.A. A.G.M meeting should be attended by the Principal, Chairperson of the Board of Management, Representatives of the Parents' Association and the Junior Infant teacher. Parents should receive the Induction Booklet for New Parents at this meeting. School information and pertinent school policies should also be discussed. Most of all, this meeting provides a forum to allay the fears and anxieties of new parents. It provides an opportunity to us to assure parents that their child's happiness and welfare is of vital importance to the teachers and staff of the school. We realise that children learn best when they feel happy and secure. To this end, parents are encouraged to keep in close contact and communication with the school. Parents' questions are invited and answered at the Induction Meeting. Our Parents' Association provide refreshments after the meeting is over. The new infants also visit to the school and their new classroom with their parents/guardians in June of each year.

e) End of Year Report Cards

Parents/Guardians receive an End of Year Report Card in Mid-June every year. This Report Card outlines each pupil's progress for the year including their performance on Standardised

Tests (1st-6th) as outlined in our Assessment Policy. An explanatory letter may also be included with the Report Card to explain test scores.

f) Newsletters

The school Principal and staff provide information for the Newsletter that goes out to all parents several times a year. The Newsletter is an excellent means of communication between parents and school.

g) Text-a-parent

The school has established a database of mobile phone numbers for parents on the O2.ie website. This facilitates the sending of text messages to all parents or specific groups of parents.

h) Website

The school website is regularly updated with latest news and notice of school events. School policies may also be uploaded onto the school website from time to time but these policies are also available for viewing in the school office by appointment.

i) Notice Board

The Notice Board on the school door is regularly updated with notices relating to school events and events in the local community.

Parental involvement:

We believe that meaningful parental involvement of parents/guardians in school life is crucial to the success of our school as a learning community. The following structures have been put in place to facilitate parental involvement in the life of our school.

1) Parents' Association

We have an active and supportive Parents' Association in our school. Our Principal attends all meetings to ensure effective communication between staff and parents is encouraged. The officers on the committee of the Parents' Association meet with the Principal after each Parents' Association meeting to discuss pertinent issues. A copy of the constitution and general activities of the Parents' Association is being compiled. The Parents' Association also organise events such as the Christmas Party, Pasta Day and After-School activities as well as Fundraisers to provide social occasions for parents/guardians to meet.

2) Policy sub-committees

Parents may also be asked to take part in the review of policies in the school. This is done through the setting up of sub-committees for specific policies. Parents can volunteer to sit on the sub-committees of policies as they are reviewed.

3) School events

The school hosts many events during the year to encourage the participation of parents/guardians in school life. Examples of these events include the annual Book Fair,

Christmas performances and concerts, Maths Week, Sports Day, Active Week, art exhibitions, school garden, school sports, school outings etc.

Review and evaluation procedures:

We will keep this policy under review and revise it according to its success in encouraging partnership between school and parents/guardians.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on _____
(date)

Signed: _____ Signed: _____
Chairperson of the Board of Management Principal