



Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed, Thurles



HOME-SCHOOL-COMMUNITY LIAISON SCHEME

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“The relationship between the home and school is based on partnership, a working relationship that is characterised by a shared sense of purpose, mutual respect and the willingness to negotiate. This implies a sharing of information, responsibility, skills, decision making and accountability” (Pugh, G.)

Rationale

Coláiste Mhuire Co- Ed believes that the process of education is shared between the school and other education providers, family, and community. This partnership acknowledges parents as the pupil’s primary educators and encourages the contribution they can make to raising standards and developing citizenship. This policy aims to set out the aims of the Home School Community Liaison Scheme and to outline how achievement will be measured. This policy is underpinned by our core values of Community, Respect, Care, Equality and Academic Excellence.

The role of the Home-School-Community Liaison is: -

1. To encourage the interest and involvement of parents in all aspects of their children’s education in keeping with our mission statement of encouraging all pupils to reach their potential in a caring environment.
2. To provide opportunities for parents to enhance their own development and thus empower them in the fulfilment of their responsibilities.
3. To create an environment where opportunities are available to enrich the learning experience of the pupil by bringing together the resources of Home, School, and the local community.
4. To create an atmosphere where parents feel respected, information is shared, and communication is open at all times.
5. To acknowledge the role of parents in raising standards, enhancing achievement, raising expectations, and assisting in maintaining standards of excellence.
6. To enable parents and teachers to work together for the overall good of the children so that they can achieve their full potential in line with the school mission statement.
7. To motivate and support disengaged pupils in their school life through regular contact with their parents.
8. To fully liaise with DEIS partnerships and programmes in the school i.e., DEIS partnership and planning, JCSP, SCP, NBSS.
9. To provide input and support for students through the School Support team.

10. To be involved in the Critical Incident Team in the school.
11. To support parents to be involved in the Parents Association.

Achievement of aims of Home-School-Community Liaison Scheme

The aims of this scheme will be best achieved by the following: -

1. Maintaining an active Parents Association.
2. Regular home visits by the Home-School-Community Liaison Coordinator with a formal reporting back.
3. Parent-Teacher-Pupil Meetings where the Home-School-Community Liaison Coordinator is available in an informal capacity to meet with parents.
4. A School Calendar is sent to parents outlining holidays, meetings, and other significant school events.
6. Provision of courses for parents either in school or in the local community.
7. Invitation to parents to use Parent's Room as a resource and meeting place.
8. Directing parents towards relevant services in the local community and outside.
9. Linking with other voluntary and statutory agencies that have a role in maximising children's education and their retention in the education system.
10. Use of the Local Youth Centre.
11. Surveying parents to seek involvement in school self-evaluation and improvement.
12. Linking with local primary school to support transition.
13. Recording minutes of the Student Support Team meetings.
14. Act as advocate for parent in disciplinary meetings when required.
15. Liaise between school Attendance Officer and the regional Educational Welfare Officer.

Evaluation of Home-School-Community Liaison Scheme

1. Formal and informal feedback from parents and teachers.
2. Feedback from meetings of Parents' Association and Board of Management.
3. Support and advice from members of the National Team.
4. Review after a period of 3 years.
5. Support of the school's Student Support Team.