St. Patrick’s N.S.

Drumshanbo,

Co. Leitrim.

Roll No: 19423J

**Parental Involvement Policy**

**Created:** March 2015

**Ratified:** May 2015

**Due for review:**

**Partial review:**

**Full review:** 2020

**St. Patrick’s National School**

**Parental Involvement Policy 2015**

**Introduction**   
This policy was formulated in March 2015. The Principal and the Parents’ Representatives on the BOM were involved in devising the policy. Members of the Parents’ Association and parents involved in activities in the school reviewed the draft copy before it was presented to the board.

**Rationale**

This policy was devised to maximise the benefits to pupil learning by promoting a partnership between the parents and the school as set down by the Education Act 1998, with the aim of promoting the moral, spiritual, social and personal development of students and provide health education for them, in consultation with their parents/guardians.  
   
**Relationship to ethos of the school**

St. Patrick’s NS seeks to enable each child to develop his/her potential in a caring environment where each child is respected and valued. This work can best be done where there is a high level of openness and co-operation between staff, parents/guardians and pupils.  
 **Aims**

In introducing this policy we hope:

* To validate and encourage parental involvement in the education and wellbeing of their child/children in school
* To build a school community committed to supporting all its pupils in a holistic way.
* To establish procedures for the sharing of information in relation to pupil progress and attainment.
* To enrich and extend the educational opportunities provided in the school for pupils by accessing the skills and talents of parents/guardians

**Content**

Parental involvement is addressed in the following areas:

1. Support of the child’s learning
2. Parents’ Association
3. Board of Management
4. Policy formation
5. Communication
6. Education Welfare Officer
7. **Support for the child’s learning**

We would like to acknowledge the strong support parents in our school give to their children’s education. They attend Parent-teacher meetings and meetings with support teachers as needed. They meet regularly with teachers and advise teachers as to the needs and concerns of childen. They seek and act upon the advice of teachers. They support homework, helping children and signing notebooks. They ensure that children have the provisions needed for school. They attend school events involving their children. Individual parents give of their time and expertise to help with policy formation, in-school activities and extr-curricular events.

2.  **Parents’ Association**

The Parents’ Association (PA) works in partnership with the whole school community for the benefit of the children in the school. They help to support and empower parents/guardians to be active in the best interests of their children’s lives in school.  
Parents/guardians are invited to join the Association and play an active part by attending meetings and partaking in any activities organised by the Association.    
The officers of the Parents’ Association communicate with the school via the Principal providing advice, suggestions and practical support so as to enhance and improve the educational experience of the children in the school. The principal attends the AGM of te association and any other meetings, if asked. There is regular informal communication between the secretary of the PA and the principal.

The PA is active in fund-raising to provide additional facilities, resources and experiences for in consultation with the parents and the principal.

3.  **Board of Management**

The parents’ representatives on the Board of Management, according to the Constitution of Boards and Rules of Procedure, DES, 2007, assist the Board in managing the school for the benefit of the students and their parents/guardians.  
The current Parent Representatives are Christiane  Gunning and John Casey. They are active and committed board members. John Casey is the safety officer on the Board of Management.

4.  **Policy formation and implementation**

Currently, parents/guardians who have expertise and/or interest in any particular policy area are invited to partake in policy formation. However, we would seek to formalise this by having a parent representative from the Board of Management and a representative from the Parents’ Association take an active role in policy formation. We would also seek to continue to utilise the skills of individual parents for specific policies.   
Parents/guardians have a role to play in ensuring that procedures outlined in policies are adhered to.  All organisational policies, when ratified, are posted on the school blog.   
Parents/guardians with particular knowledge or skills in any curricular area may, at the invitation of the teacher, and with the approval of the principal, be invited to share their expertise with pupils.

**6. Communication**

**Parent Teacher Meetings:**

Parent teacher meetings are generally held in November of each year. Individual appointment times are agreed between the parent and the teacher.  
Parents are free to make individual appointments with their child’s class teacher or learning support/resource teacher at times other than Parent/Teacher meetings. The class teacher or learning support teacher may also make an appointment to meet the parents when considered necessary. Parents regularly meet teachers informally or call the school if they are unable to meet face-to-face,   
Induction meetings are held for parents of new Junior Infants in June.

**Learning Support/Resource teachers**:

The class teacher informs parents/guardians of their child’s progress and discusses any extra support that the child may require. Parents/guardians of children in receipt of resource hours sanctioned by the SENO are invited to IEP meetings and are kept fully informed of all developments. Parents/guardians of children attending learning supprt are invited to attend meetings with the class teacher and learning support teacher to provide discuss and provide input for IPLPs oe IEPs as appropriate. IEP and IPLP meetings are generally help in September and again in February.

**Extra-Curricular Activities**:

Parents/guardians are advised of any extra curricular activities that are available to their child.   
  
**School Reports:**

Reports are sent to the parents/guardians at the end of every school year. All school reports are sent in the middle of June to allow parents adequate time before the end of term to discuss any concerns they have in relation to school reports. Results of starndardised tests in Maths and English are included in reports for children from first class to sixth class. From June 2015 results of standardised test in Irish will also be included for fifth class.

**Website:**

The school has an active blog stpatricksnsdrumshanbo.scoilnet.ie since November 2014 which keeps parents up-to-date with events in individual classes and in the school in general. All letters and policies are posted on the blog. The PA has a page on the blog.   
We intend that increasing use of the blog will reduce the need for notes and letters.   
  
**Text-a-Parent**:

All parents mobile numbers are up-dated in September by the school secretary. Text-a-Parent system is used to remind parents of important events and of any school closures.    
  
**Homework:**

Parents/guardians are required to sign the pupils’ homework each night.  
  
**School events:**

Parents/guardians are invited to concerts, masses and any other events as appropriate. We had our first open day in November 2014. We intend that this will be a regular part of our school calendar.  
Notices regarding upcoming events, adult education classes and services available for parents and children are displayed on notice boards in the main hall. The Parents’ Associaiton also have a diplay board and suggestion box for their use.

**7. Education Welfare Officer**

It is our school policy to notify parents when their child has missed 10 days or more at the end of each quarter when making a return to the NEWB. Parents are informed that at 20 days the school has no choice but to report the absence to the Welfare Board

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**Formulation Process**This policy is a statement of current practice in the school and of some envisaged developments in parental involvements. The Principal, in consultation with Christiane Gunning, one of the parents’ representatives on the Board of Management developed the policy. Before presentation to the Board of Management it will also be shown to the chairperson or secretary of the PA to seek their input. It will also be shown to parents currently involved in school activities.   
  
**Monitoring and Evaluation**

Parents/guardians are welcome in our school and invited to support all activities their children are involved in. They are assured that their concerns will be heard and acted on. Increased parental involvement in school activities results in an overall benefit to pupil learning.  The success of this policy will be measured by the continued involvement of parents in all aspects of their children’s education and an increased involvement in polcy formation.

**Review and ratification**

This document will be presented to the Board of Management for ratification before the end of the 2014/15 school year. If approved by the board it will become policy and will be posted on the school blog. It will be due for review in 2020. If a policy formation committee is formalised in the school, this policy will be reviewed to reflect this. Parents will be informed and the updated policy will be presented to the board.

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**Ratification of policy for St. Patrick’s NS**

**Martin McGowan May 2015**

**Chairperson Date**

**Ruth McLoughlin May 2015**

**Principal Date**