

Parents Association Policy School of the Holy Spirit

Introduction;

- The purpose of this policy is to establish a framework for the effective partnership between the Parents Association and the school in line with the Education Act 1998, and for parents, in partnership with the Principal, Board of Management and whole school community to provide the best possible education for children attending the school. This policy is based on "Supporting Each Other", a guide to best practice for effective partnership between schools and Parents Associations devised jointly by the NPC and the IPPN, and "Working Effectively as a Parents Association" guidelines developed by the NPC.

Where effective partnership exists between parents and school the benefits are;

- Students learn more, behave better and are happier in school.
- Teachers are more effective when supported by parents.
- Parents enjoy the support of other parents.
- Parents are enabled to meaningfully support the aims of the school.

Membership of the Parents Association:

Membership is only open to parents or legal guardians of students attending School of the Holy Spirit. All parents and legal guardians will be deemed to be members of the Parents Association.

The Parents Association Committee will make every effort to encourage active membership by parents/guardians, especially for new families and families where language or cultural backgrounds may present an obstacle to participation.

Though not a member of the Parents Association, the Principal, at his/her own discretion, may attend and address any meeting of the Parents Association Committee, Executive Committee, and all sub-committees.

Aims of the Parents Association:

- To enable parents to play a meaningful role in supporting the aims and objectives of the school.
- To ensure parents are meaningfully consulted in the development of relevant school policies.
- To ensure that parents, Board of Management, Principal and staff work together to ensure the smooth operation of the school by adhering to agreed policies and procedures.
- To enable parents to contribute to an enhanced learning environment for students.
- To ensure that the work of the whole school community is at all times focussed on the collective needs of all the students in the school.
- To identify and make available the skills and talents of individual parents that may be valuable to the school.
- To ensure that all fundraising events are carried out with the prior approval of the Board of Management.
- To support the parent body through dissemination of information pertaining to school. parenting and supporting your child in school.

The Committee of the Parents Association:

Members of the Parents Association will elect a committee with a maximum of twenty and a minimum of five parents/legal guardians. This committee will have responsibility for representing all the parents /guardians of School of the Holy Spirit and managing the activities of the Parents Association.

Not all parents/legal guardians may be in a position to become involved in the Parents Association Committee but instead, may wish to be involved in specific activities, e.g. School events/fundraising activities. The Committee will endeavour to provide opportunities for parents/legal guardians to volunteer their support when required for fundraising and school events.

The Committee will positively support the work of the Parents Association and the work and policies of the school.

School Support to Parents/legal Guardians:

- Providing opportunities for parents to meet informally and learn from each other's experience.
- Organising events where parents, teachers and Board members can meet and get to know one another.
- Organising guest speakers to address parents on relevant topics.
- Providing information for parents about how to help their child/ children.

A dedicated Parent Information section will be maintained on the school website by the teacher with responsibility in this area.

Success Criteria:

- Parents feel welcome and involved in the school.
- There are clear, consistent communication channels between parents, Parents Association and the school.
- Parents actively participate in school activities and events.
- Parent input is valued in policy development and relevant decision-making.
- Parents and staff consistently express positive feedback about the Parents Association and its' work.

Implementation and Review:

This policy was implemented in 2024 and will be reviewed in 2028 or earlier, if deemed necessary.

Signed: _____

Principal