

A POLICY FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY LINKS AT SCHOOL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Introduction:

We recognise that our school community is part of a wider community. Links between the school and the larger local, regional and national community enhance both the quality of life and learning experienced by both communities. In School of the Holy Spirit, we strive to forge and enhance relationships with the wide array of people and organisations close to us in order to enrich the curriculum for our students.

Aim:

To work with parents, local residents, the business community, public services and voluntary services to enable our students to become active citizens.

Students

- To develop in students a positive attitude towards themselves and others with a strong sense of self-respect. Also, to develop a sense of respect for other peoples' property, ideas and beliefs irrespective of gender, race, disability or academic achievement, etc.
- To appreciate human achievements, failures and aspirations.
- To develop positive attitudes towards and concern for the environment.
- To help students today to prepare for the future.

Curriculum

- To offer a broad-based curriculum in order to facilitate the acquisition of knowledge, promote enjoyment in learning, and to provide knowledge/skills to equip students for work and leisure as active, confident and responsible members of a rapidly developing society.

Community

- To develop a school community which affords equal value to all its members, is seen to be just and encourages mutual respect, concern for others and truthfulness.
- To foster close relationships between the school, the students' homes and the local community.
- To have our school recognised as an important part of our local community.

The following list are some of examples of the extensive Community Links we have established in our school: -

- Parents Information Evenings
- Parent/Teacher Meetings
- Parents and Community Representatives on the Board of Management
- Parent's Association/events
- Student Council
- School website/Facebook
- Kilkenny Education Centre
- School as base for teacher summer courses
- Studio 111
- Special schools Kilkenny-St. Patrick's, Mother of Fair Love
- Enable Ireland
- Seville Lodge Campus
- Fundraising events e.g. Church gate Collection, Duck Race

- Craft Ed
- TAPP
- Green Flag
- Active School's Flag
- Creative Schools
- Outings to local, regional and historical centres e.g. The Butler Gallery, Kilkenny Castle
- Cultural Visits from authors, poets, artists, storytellers, musicians, dancers
- Artist in Residence Programmes
- Music Generation
- Drama and Dance classes
- Kilkenny Recreational Sport's Partnership
- Basketball, hurling coaches
- Therapeutic Horse Riding
- Visits to shops, supermarkets, country markets and restaurants to practice life skills
- Local bus companies, taxi services and train services
- Religious Ceremonies - Christmas/Summer Masses, First Holy Communion and Confirmation
- St. Fiacre's Church
- St. Patrick's Church
- Fr. Dan Carroll, School Chaplin
- Bishop of Ossory, Niall Coll
- The Watershed/Scanlon Park
- The Drum Youth Club
- SOS radio station
- KCLR interviews and advertising events
- Talks by professionals and others
- School talks for students e.g. the Fire Service, Road Safety Authority
- Annual school trips
- Teacher training
- Liaison with Kilkenny Education Centre
- Drama and Dance Lessons
- School Leavers - Information Night

- Sampling
- Placements
- Coffee mornings
- College Open day Visits e.g. Ormond College
- Trips e.g. National Concert Hall
- Debs Night

- Healthy Eating Promotion e.g. Food Dudes
- School Food Company
- Gaisce Awards
- Ossory Youth Group
- Comhairle na nÓg
- Teac Tom
- Work Experience Placements e.g. The Book Centre, McDonalds, TJ Reid Gym
- Educational settings for further education e.g. Ormond College, NLN , KITE,
- Kilkenny Library and Mobile Library
- Studio III Training
- Christmas Tree Festival, Yulefest activities
- Student Fundraiser events for charity e.g. Temple Street Children's Hospital
- Involvement with charitable services e.g. Lyons Club, Castlecomer Wellie Race , The Good Shepherd Centre , The Women's Refuge