

# **PARENTS AS PARTNERS IN EDUCATION at Rathmichael School**

## **1 PARENTS AS PARTNERS**

Partnership for parents in education is a stated policy aim of the Government. Through the Programme for Economic and Social Progress the Government and the Social Partners have formally recognised the promotion of parental involvement in the education of their children as an essential strategy of educational policy and practice. This policy is concerned with ensuring that partnership for parents is positively pursued at a local level by Rathmichael school.

## **2 SCHOOL/FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS**

The school will encourage the Parent Teacher's Association to become members of the National Parents' Council. Such affiliation affords parents the opportunity and the mechanism for having a voice in decision making on primary educational issues at a national level. Through its representative function, the Council is making a distinctive and valuable contribution to central planning and policy development in education.

*'The school is regarded as an extension of the home and an active partnership between parents and teachers make this a reality, especially in the eyes of the young child, who is the central figure.'*

*Research shows that parental interest and attitudes to school, to books and to education are the single most important influence on a child's learning.'*

As the recognised primary educators of the child, parents have a right to be assured that the child's needs are being met by the school. It follows that parents should be given as much information as possible on all aspects of the child's progress and development. Parents, as a body, are also entitled to know whether the school and the education system are meeting children's needs.

## **3 PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION**

Rathmichael School have a Parent Teacher Association in order to promote and develop effective and positive participation by parents in education.

A Parent Teacher Association is essential for:

- developing partnership for parents in education at the level of the local school, and
- supporting and encouraging individual parents to become more involved in the education of their children.

#### **4. DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS**

In order to build relationships with families we must endeavour to do the following:

1. Communicate with families often.
2. Communicate the positive and the negative opinions and guidance.
3. Foster two-way communication between staff and parents.
4. Use multiple modes of communication to help suit the working parent
  - Phone, email, face to face meetings, zoom.
5. Try to understand each family's expectations and views about their involvement.
6. Approach the relationship with respect.

Ratified by Board of Management

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Chairperson

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Date