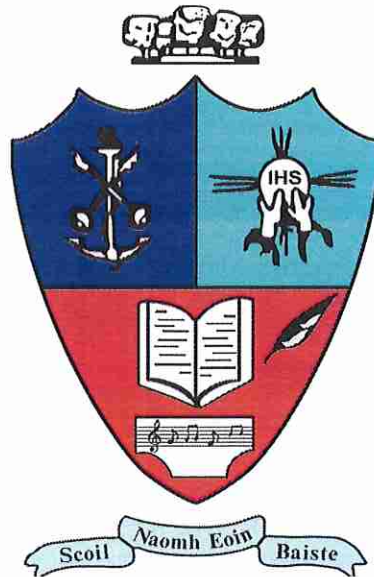


**St. John the Baptist
Junior Boys' School**

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Parental Involvement Policy

St. John the Baptist Junior Boys' School

Introduction

This policy was drafted as a collaborative exercise between the Board of Management, staff and parents. The Board of Management believe that a strong partnership between all partners in the school community can only have positive benefits for the pupils.

Rationale

St. John the Baptist Junior Boys' School is a community where pupils, parents/guardians and teachers collaborate and work in partnership for our boys. When parents/guardians decide to send their son to our school, they are entering an important relationship. Parents/ Guardians are encouraged, at every possible opportunity to be involved in their children's educational journey through the school, in many and varied ways, and at many levels.

Our school supports the view of the National Parents' Council, Primary, that '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'.

This Parental Involvement Policy is based on the following principles:

- Parents are the primary educators of their child(ren) and are valuable partners in their child(ren)'s education in the formal school setting.
- Parental involvement benefits pupil learning.
- Promotion of partnership between parents, teachers and the Board of Management is vital to the health of the school community.
- It supports the Education Act 1998 and the Education Welfare Act 2000
- It supports School Self Evaluation
- It provides 'good parent/teacher relationships and a better level of understanding between home and school' (National Parents' Council)
- It enhances communication, trust and respect between parents and teachers.

Aims

As a school, we believe that the school is not an isolated unit but a union of many people who come together to give it its life and meaning.

Against this backdrop we aim to:

- Help parents to develop a positive role in complementing and supporting the work of the school in educating their children.
- To build a school community committed to supporting all its pupils.
- To establish procedures for sharing of information in relation to pupil progress and attainment.
- To enrich and extend the educational opportunities provided for pupils by accessing the skills and talents of parents.

General Guidelines for Parental Involvement

- Parents/ Guardians come into the classroom at the invitation of the class teacher/ Principal, by prior arrangement and for an agreed purpose.
- Respect for all school staff (both teaching and non-teaching) in their professional capacity is essential.
- The school ethos must be upheld at all times.
- Discipline remains the responsibility of the teacher.
- All work will be supervised by the teacher.
- Parents who participate in the classroom should be conscious of and sensitive to the needs of the entire class. Confidentiality must be upheld at all times.
- Parents who participate are advised that it is not considered appropriate for him/her at any time to be in the company of an individual child.
- In the interest of safety, toddlers and younger children cannot be accommodated during a classroom activity.
- The highest standard of behaviour and language is expected.
- Mobile phones may not be used to video or photograph the children unless instructed by school staff and using school equipment, such as Ipad etc.

- In the event of a child protection disclosure being made to the visitor by a child, the visitor should at once report this disclosure to the DLP (Principal).

There are specific guidelines for Parental Involvement in the following areas.

1. Parents' Association
2. Board of Management
3. School Policies
4. Communication
5. Education Welfare Services, Tusla
6. Volunteers and Guest Speakers

1. Parents' Association

The Parents' Association is the structure through which parents/guardians in the school can work together for the best possible education for their children. St. John the Baptist Junior Boys' School has an active Parents' Association who meet regularly. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend these meetings.

The Parents' Association is affiliated to the National Parents Council. The Parents' Association also communicates regularly with the Principal.

The Parents' Association are involved in organising social events for the school community such as:

- Junior Infants parents meet up in the yard in September of each year.
- Co-ordinating reception for families Cafeteria on Junior Infant 'meet the teacher' dates in June
- Co-ordinating reception for families Cafeteria on Junior Infants first school day in September.
- The Annual Quiz fundraiser
- Supporting events that celebrate the graduation of 2nd class and providing gifts for the graduating class.
- Supporting all parents through the organisation of NPC information meetings/speakers.
- Supporting other school events as appropriate- Healthy Eating Week, Active School Week, Arts' Day, Library rota etc.
- Supporting policy development.
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2. Board of Management

Section 15 of the Education Act 1998 states that (1) It shall be the duty of the board to manage the school on behalf of the patron and for the benefit of the students and their parents and to provide or cause to be provided an appropriate education for each student at the school for which that board has responsibility.

3. School Policies

School policies can be viewed on the school's website www.belgrovejbs.ie. Parents can discuss any issues that arise with a policy directly with the principal.

4. Communication

- **Start of Year Class Meetings:**
Each year cohort holds an information meeting for all parents in late September/ early October. This meeting is an opportunity for parents to meet their son's new teacher and ask any questions that they may have. At this meeting the teachers explain the homework procedure, classroom rules and structures and give a brief outline of the curriculum that will be taught throughout the year.

- **Parent/Teacher Meetings:**
These are held over a week in November for Senior Infants to Second Classes. Junior Infant parent/teacher meetings are held over a week in January. Dates are set by staff and management and can be booked on Aladdin. Meetings for parents/guardians of incoming Junior Infants and their sons are held in June of each year.

- **Other Meetings:**
Teachers are regularly available to discuss issues with parents by appointment, on the phone or in person. These meetings can be arranged through SeeSaw or the school office.

- **School Report:**
Parents/Guardians are provided with a written school report at the end of each academic year. Every school report is read and signed by the Principal.

- **Website:**
Our school website is updated regularly with latest news, information on school activities, events and newsletters from the Principal.

- **Aladdin Connect:**
The school uses Aladdin Connect to keep parents/guardians updated on school events, activities and important notices.

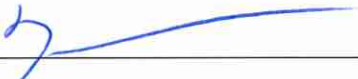
- **SeeSaw:**
SeeSaw is a secure online journal where pupils can document and reflect on their learning. This online journal is shared privately with parents/guardians to view and comment throughout the year. Parents/Guardians may also use SeeSaw to communicate with their child's teacher.

- **Homework Journal:**
The homework journal is used in our 1st and 2nd classes and requires that parents monitor and sign their children's homework journal daily. The homework journal can also be used as a means of communication between home and school.

- **Principal's Newsletter:**
The Principal sends a termly and mid-termly newsletter to parents/guardians keeping them up to date of the latest events and activities which took place that term.
5. **Education Welfare Services, Tusla**
Parents are made aware of the role of the Education Welfare Services in Tusla, communicating with parents whose children have missed more than 20 school days. On reaching 15 days, parents will be informed by automatically generated (thorough Aladdin system) message that their child has been absent for 15 days and that Tusla will be informed at 20 days.
6. **Volunteers and Guest Speakers**
Guest speakers, including parents and grandparents who have skills and knowledge to share, may be invited to classrooms with the sanction of the Board of Management. As with all visitors to the school, Guest Speakers/ Volunteers must have completed Garda Vetting (application form for garda vetting can be accessed through the school office). All Guest Speakers/Volunteers are expected to sign in and sign out at reception. They will be accompanied by a teacher during their time in school.

Ratification

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 27/4/23



Chairperson



Principal