



# Holycross National School

## HOME/SCHOOL LINKS POLICY

### **Introductory statement**

This policy was developed to give guidance to the staff, parents and local community on the role of the Home School Links in our school.

### **Rationale:**

The Constitution acknowledges that the primary and natural educator of the child is the family. Parents' role confers on them the right to active participation in the child's education. This includes their right as individuals to be consulted and informed on all aspects of their child's education at school level, and their right as a group to actively participate in the education system at school. Holycross N.S. recognizes that good homeschool links contribute greatly to the quality of education received by children. An open, cordial relationship exists between parents and teachers in the school, which acknowledges and values the respective roles of each.

### **Relationship to Characteristic Spirit of the School:**

Holycross N.S seeks to enable each child to develop his/her potential in a caring environment where the talents of each child are valued. This work can best be done where there is a high level of openness and co-operation between staff, parents and pupils. We welcome the co-operation and involvement of parents / guardians in many ways and at many levels.

### **Aims:**

- To facilitate a communicative relationship between teachers and parents to the benefit of our pupils.
- To establish procedures for the sharing of information in relation to pupil progress and attainment.
- To create a school environment where parents and guardians feel welcome and free to discuss their child's progress with the teachers.
- To enrich and extend the educational opportunities provided for our pupils by accessing the skills and talents of parents and community members.
- To encourage parents / guardians to become involved in various aspects of school life e.g. Sitting on school bodies, fundraising, policy making, organising or assisting at school events and in the classroom.

### **Communication:**

The following measures endeavour to develop and ensure supportive links between school and home.

#### **Parent Teacher Meetings**

These are held once a year during the second term. The purpose is to discuss all aspects of their children's schooling from social interaction to academic attainment. Parents/guardians meet the child's teacher who gives an overview of his/her progress, conduct and generally how he/she is getting on at school as well as pointing out areas where improvement is needed and how the parent might help facilitate this.

#### **School Report**

Report cards detailing pupil progress are these completed and communicated to parents/guardians two weeks prior to the end of the year.

#### **School Information Pack:**

New parents are provided with an information pack containing Enrolment Forms, general Information Sheet about the school, Code of Conduct and any other information deemed relevant.

#### **Letters and Texts Home**

These are to ensure that parents/guardians are made aware of all activities in the school.

#### **Homework Journal**

Parents/guardians sign this each day.

### Parent/Guardian Requested Meeting

Parents/guardians may arrange to meet the class teacher, SEN teacher or principal by making an appointment for a time convenient to all parties. Consideration is given to the purpose of the meeting, who will be present, arrangements for recording outcomes of the meeting and supervision of the class is undertaken by another teacher where possible.

### Teacher Requested Meetings

A teacher may request to meet with a parent, where there is an area regarding a child which needs to be addressed.

### Phone Calls

Where the issue is not deemed important enough to necessitate a meeting, a simple phone call may suffice to clarify a query on the part of either parents or teachers.

### Complaints Procedure

Our complaints procedure is based on the I.N.T.O/C.P.S.M.A Procedure agreed in 1993 for dealing with complaints by parents against teachers

### New Pupils

All new pupils are invited to come to the school for a morning in June to meet their teachers and the other children in their class. Their parents are also invited to attend on this day to meet with other parents in the school.

### Religious Ceremonies

First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation and associated events provide opportunities for parents to become involved in their children's preparation through meetings, organisation of events and participation in the ceremonies themselves. They also provide happy social occasions to meet informally with teachers and fellow parents in a relaxed an atmosphere of cordiality.

### Roles and Responsibility

The school principal will be responsible for the implementation and evaluation of the policy. Any feedback received will be recorded and any problems that arise will be taken into account for the purposes of evaluation and review.

### The Role of Principal / Deputy Principal

- To encourage parents / guardians and staff to participate and support all activities and ideas in developing a whole school approach to the Home School Links Policy.
- To support the HCLO coordinator in the activities of the HSCL scheme.

### The Role of the Class Teacher/SET

- The class teacher works with your child every day. The class teacher communicates with parents/guardians on their child's progress and recommends ways to improve learning.
- The class teacher will liaise with the HSLO/Principal where there are concerns about attendance and participation.

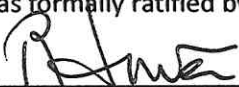
### .Ratification and Communication

The policy was presented to the BOM for discussion and approval on 19/09/2024

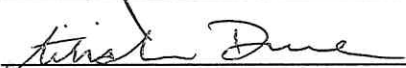
The policy will be available for parents to view on our school website.

### Ratification and Review

This policy was formally ratified by the Board of Management on 19/9/24.

Signed:  Chairperson, BoM

Date: 19/9/24

Signed:  Principal

Date: 19/9/24