

# Home School Liaison Co-ordinator Policy.

## **GUIDELINES.**

Since October '08 Ss. Peter & Paul's school has a fulltime Home/School teacher who works in partnership with parents to support them in the equation of their children. The purpose of the partnership is to enhance pupils learning opportunities and promote the retention at school.

### **The Goals of H.S.C.L. scheme are:**

- supporting marginalised pupils
- promoting co-operation between home, school and the community
- empowering parents with the education process
- retention of you people in education.

The Home School co-ordinator meets informally with parents at home and at school. Parents have the opportunity to become involved in school activities and sharing their expertise while developing their own skills and leadership potential.

The co-ordinator works with voluntary and statutory agencies in the community to minimise education disadvantage and to direct parents for appropriate help.

## **WORKING WITH OTHER SCHOOLS.**

Ss. Peter and Paul's work with other Primary and Secondary schools in Clonmel in meeting with parents together so that they can have an input on policy making on issues they feel strongly about, which impinge on education in our community issues which have arisen are:

- School Attendance
- Substance Misuse
- Self-image Courses
- ICTU (with emphasis on education sites).

The development and building of positive, trusting relationships with families is seen as cornerstone of efforts to address issues of education disadvantage.

The H.S.C.L. policy formulated by teachers/parents in '09 states:

"Our Home School Policy in Ss. Peter & Paul's aims to create mutual trust and co-operation between home and school by understanding our complementary roles. This requires that we show a willingness to communicate as we strive towards our common purpose – the development of our children as responsible members of the wider community H.S.C.L. co-ordinator networks with relevant statutory agencies to the benefits of parents, students and teachers.

H.S.C.L. co-ordinator works with establishing contact and building relationships with parents, carers, and families of migrant pupils.

- being unable to communicate in English
- unfamiliar with education system and how they are taught

- dealing with stress of change, dislocation & coping with life in a new country.

Transfer programme (i) p. 10 (strategies for preventing learning difficulties)  
(ii) 6<sup>th</sup> class to Secondary School).

We in Ss. Peter & Paul's School feel that when parents and teachers work together each showing an appreciation for the skills, knowledge and opportunities provided in differing environments, a climate of shared concern and joint effort is built, which helps children feel secure and valued, enabling them to benefit fully from their education opportunities. Therefore it is the jointly held policy of all staff members to welcome parents into our school in a friendly spirit of partnership.

The following are examples of H.S.C.L. Scheme activities for parents of categorised on 4 broad levels as outlined by Department of Education and Science February 2007.

Leisure time activities – non threatening starting point for marginalised parents

Meditation

Crafts – centre piece/crochet

Art Classes – Water Colour

Christmas International Migrant Party

Curricular activities enable parents to come closer to their children's learning/personal development courses including parenting, leadership development & involvement in formal learning take place.

Maths class (parent) – helping parents participation in homework support

Drug talk

Nutrition/health development.

Parent support and become a resource to their own children and to teachers by organising activities. At primary level parents work with children in the classroom in such areas as reading/paired reading, art/craft activities, drama library organization, mathematics, computers and cookery.

Library support

Computer Course

Art/Craft (Support for Parent – laminating/cutting out fears for teacher use.

Local Committee Project

Internet Access

Approaches to reading.

### **Networking with outside agencies (Statutory & Voluntary).**

Health Service Executive

School Completion Programme

Bernardos family Support Programme

PRY (Prioritising Rapid Youth)

Clonmel Community Youth Project Education Network

Clonmel Community Partnership

Community Childcare

Clonmel Youth Diversion Project

V.E.C.     Adult Literacy  
              Community Education  
                  Back to Education.

Clonmel Youth Training Enterprise

Community Gardaí

Juvenile Liaison Officer

Pathways

RAPID (Revitalising Areas through planning, investment & development)

South Tipperary Art Group

South Tipperary Arts Centre

Vincent de Paul

Lions Club

Clonmel Library

Cuan Saoir (Women's Refuge).