



PRE-PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT

Parents as Partners Policy

School Mission Statement:

***“Learning and growing in
the light of the gospel”***

WITHIN THE POLICY:

- Aims and Objectives
- Operating Policy

PARENTS AS PARTNERS POLICY

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

To support and enhance the development of the children and to respect, understand and value the contribution parents make towards the child's learning.

To provide support, guidance and encouragement to parents as educators.

To provide parents with information about the department before their child begins school.

To work together with parents by listening to past, present and future information that may affect their child's development, thus building up the Learning Journey that shows each child's progress and their next steps.

To provide regular opportunities for parents to discuss their child's progress through Parent Consultation evenings.

To give guidance and advice to support home learning and to share information provided in the home achievement booklet.

To provide regular information to parents giving details of their child's progress in the Early Learning Goals, both verbal and written.

To actively encourage learning activities to share at home, for example sound recognition, reading and discussion related to PSED issues. Similarly, to use events and celebrations shared at home to develop learning opportunities within school.

OPERATING POLICY

After their initial visit, parents are invited to bring their child for a pre-school visit during which time the child has an opportunity to play alongside and socialise with other new children. This gives staff valuable information from parents and about the newcomer's stage of development. In certain circumstances, i.e., a child does not settle or seems unhappy; a second or third visit can be arranged. The parent has the opportunity then to fill in an 'All about Me' sheet highlighting the child's likes and dislikes. This is then used to inform the planning for sessions they attend, ensuring interests are being taken into account.

Every parent is given a Pre-Preparatory Information Booklet which contains details about the curriculum and other useful information relating to the department.

Parents are asked to complete an information form which advises us about special needs or circumstances, health problems and general information about their child.

A detailed medical form is required by the Nursing Sister and this is kept on file in Sick Bay and in the child's classroom.

We have introduced a home Book of Achievement. Parents or carers are able to record and date when learning goals are reached at home. This gives staff valuable shared

information to set further targets at school and this information is added to the child's learning journey.

Parents are regularly informed about the activities and Intended learning children are to be involved in. The school produces a fortnightly newsletter which is emailed to all parents, it gives parents detailed information about past and future events. Other information is placed on the parents' notice board in the Gentili Centre. There is also the school website and Clarion Call which gives further information to Parents.

Planning and parental letters are displayed on the notice boards outside the Cygnet and Swan classrooms. In Swans, the parents have an Intended Learning letter and a half termly topic web. Cygnets are sent a topic review letter and this is also posted on the notice board.

Parents are regularly invited to participate in a range of events throughout the year. There is an active and thriving Grace Dieu Parents' Association.

Our Department has an open door policy. We hope to work together in a positive way so we can develop an effective partnership with parents.

(Reviewed ND October 2017)